

Hafa Adai!

CHCC enhances cardiology services on Rota, Tinian. **PAGE 2**
Inmates complete NCCER CORE, OSHA 10 General Industry certifications. **PAGE 3**

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IPI receives initial \$400K of \$7M loan

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has recently informed the NMI Bankruptcy Court that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has withdrawn the initial \$400,000 of the \$7-million loan it secured and was approved debtor-in-possession (DIP) financing for.

See IPI on Page 4



CHRYSTAL MARINO

John Junior Lewis is escorted out of his bail hearing yesterday at the Superior Court chambers of Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho in Susupe.

Man allegedly attacks partner out of jealousy

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

A man was arrested early morning Sunday after an alleged jealous and violent out-

burst at his girlfriend at their residence in Chalan Kiya.

John Junior Lewis, 32, is now facing charges of assault and battery and another

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INSIDE



LOCAL

Dozens of families and friends gathered for the Grace Christian Academy graduation ceremony last May 31, and the school set 15 Eagles a flight during their class of 2024 graduation ceremony at the school's campus in Navy Hill.

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LOCAL

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, demonstrating preparedness and efficiency, successfully conducted a search and rescue operation for a distressed vessel 13 nautical miles north of Guam on June 23, 2024, saving 13 boaters.

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LIFE & STYLE

Donald Sutherland, the Canadian actor whose wry, arrestingly off-kilter screen presence spanned more than half a century of films from "M.A.S.H." to "The Hunger Games," has died. He was 88.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Saipan Mayor's Office. The SMO's marriage coordinator Frank Camacho said from Jan. 1 to June 7, 2024, his office issued marriage licenses to a total of 195 couples, with 83 of them being same-sex and 112 of them being opposite gender. Among the 83 same-sex marriages recorded, 50 were female and 33 were male, and 77 were nonresidents and from China.

See FEMALE on Page 4

Tinian are currently at drought condition D1 (or moderate drought), while Rota is currently at D2 drought conditions (or severe drought).

See DROUGHT on Page 4

CNMI drought conditions improving

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

After over a month of ex-

treme drought conditions, the CNMI has seen a great deal of improvement and is currently at moderate drought

(D1) conditions.

According to an update on drought conditions released by the National Weather Service based off Tiyan, Guam, as of last June 21, Saipan and

2013-2018 Toyota RAV4 Class Action Settlement Publication Notice*A federal court authorized this Notice***A Customer Support Program and Other Benefits Are Available for Eligible Current and Former Owners and Lessees of 2013-2018 Toyota RAV4 Vehicles**

Toyota has agreed to a class action settlement to resolve claims that 2013-2018 Toyota RAV4 vehicles ("Subject Vehicles") contain a defective battery terminal. The Settlement provides an Inspection Program and reimbursement for certain expenses.

What is this lawsuit about? Plaintiffs allege that the Subject Vehicles contain a defective battery terminal that can cause the automobile to lose electrical power, experience vehicle stalling, and potentially cause a fire. Toyota denies all claims and allegations brought against it in the lawsuit but has agreed to the Settlement to resolve the case. The Court has not decided who is right.

Who is Included in the Settlement? You may be included in the Settlement if you currently own or lease or previously owned or leased a 2013-2018 RAV4 vehicle. Subject Vehicles are subject to NHTSA Recall No. 23V-734, the "Recall." Note: hybrid vehicles are not included in the Recall or this Settlement.

What Are the Settlement Benefits? The proposed Settlement provides a Customer Support Program that includes: (1) an Inspection Program; (2) a Battery Replacement Reimbursement Program; (3) an Unreimbursed Out-of-Pocket Repair/Replacement Expense Reimbursement Program; and (4) an Unreimbursed Out-of-Pocket Unique Thermal Events Reimbursement Program. You can find more information on the Settlement by accessing the website where you can (i) view settlement documents, (ii) determine whether you are included in the Settlement, and (iii) submit a claim. This Settlement does not resolve any claims for personal injury or wrongful death.

What are my options?

FILE A CLAIM. You will be able to submit a claim for reimbursement at www.RAV4BatteryAssemblySettlement.com for the following programs:

- Battery Replacement Reimbursement Program which provides partial reimbursement to replace a Group 26R battery with a Group 35 battery in Subject Vehicles. Deadline to submit such claims is **June 25, 2025**.

- Unreimbursed Out-of-Pocket Repair/Replacement Expense Reimbursement Program which provides

reimbursement for certain costs incurred prior to **June 25, 2024**, related to repairs or parts replacements of the battery hold-down assembly and related reasonable rental and/or towing expenses. Deadline to submit such claims is **December 1, 2024**.

- Unreimbursed Out-of-Pocket Unique Thermal Events Reimbursement Program, which provides reimbursement for costs incurred prior to **June 25, 2025**, or 30 days after the date the Recall Remedy is available, whichever date is earlier, for unreimbursed out-of-pocket damages to the Subject Vehicle and/or property damage related to a Unique Thermal Event caused by the alleged battery hold-down assembly defect and related reasonable rental and/or towing expenses. The deadline to submit such claims is **July 1, 2025**.

OBJECT. You may write to the Court to explain why you do not like the Settlement. If you object to the Settlement you will remain a member of the Class (if you are otherwise eligible) and you will still release the claims covered by this Settlement. You must object by **September 30, 2024**.

EXCLUDE. If you wish to exclude yourself from the Settlement and not receive settlement benefits, you must submit a request to exclude yourself from, or "opt out" of, the Settlement postmarked by **October 21, 2024**. If you do so, you will preserve your rights to sue Toyota.

GO TO THE FAIRNESS HEARING. The Court will hold a hearing on **November 19, 2024**, at **9:00 a.m. CST** to consider whether to grant final approval to the Settlement, including attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses up to \$13.6 million and Class Representative Service Awards of up to \$5,000 each. The hearing date may change, so please check the Settlement website regularly for updates. You do not need to attend, but are welcome to do so at your own expense.

DO NOTHING. If you are a member of the Class and do nothing, you will not receive the benefits provided under the Settlement, and you will give up the right to sue Toyota about the issues in the lawsuit.

For more information, call **1-877-522-3626** or visit www.RAV4BatteryAssemblySettlement.com.

Local**THROUGH TELEMEDICINE PLATFORM****CHCC enhances cardiology services on Rota, Tinian**

CHCC

By leveraging telemedicine platforms, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. cardiologist based on Saipan is now conducting remote consultations, reviewing of diagnostic tests, and collaborating with the healthcare team at Rota Health Center and Tinian Health Center.

Telemedicine has revolutionized healthcare delivery in many rural/remote regions,

and the CNMI is no exception. Through the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the integration of telemedicine has brought significant improvements to the healthcare landscape in our islands. One of the most notable benefits of telemedicine in the CNMI is access to specialty care at the Rota Health Center and Tinian Health Center. By leveraging telemedicine platforms, the CHCC cardiologist based on Saipan is now conducting remote consultations, reviewing of diagnostic tests, and collaborating with the healthcare team at RHC and THC.

Cardiologists are often scarce in rural and remote communities, making it challenging for residents to receive timely and specialized medical attention. Prior to the implementation of telemedicine, patients from Rota and Tinian requiring cardiology consultations had to travel to Saipan which can be financially challenging and time consuming. Telemedicine had significantly reduced this burden.

"The implementation of telemedicine in our cardiology services is a transformative step in improving healthcare access for our patients on Rota and Tinian," said Dr. Peter Gregor, cardiologist at CHCC. "We are able to meet with our patients through live video conferencing providing quicker diagnosis and interventions. Early detection and prompt

treatment have undoubtedly contributed to better patient outcomes in the CNMI."

Continuity of care is essential in managing chronic conditions such as heart disease. Telemedicine allows for regular follow-up appointments and continuous monitoring of patients' health, ensuring that any changes in their condition are quickly addressed.

Furthermore, telemedicine has proven to be cost-effective for both patients and the healthcare system. By minimizing the need for physical infrastructure and reducing travel costs, telemedicine offers a more economical solution for delivering high-quality cardiology care.

By leveraging this technology, CHCC can deliver consistent and equitable healthcare services across the CNMI reducing disparities in health outcomes.

"Embracing telemedicine at CHCC transforms healthcare delivery, bridging the gap between patients and providers with convenience, efficiency, and compassionate care," said CHCC CEO Esther Muña.

Patients in Rota and Tinian have already begun to benefit from this program, experiencing shorter wait times for specialist consultations and more frequent follow-ups. The success of this initiative underscores CHCC's dedication to utilizing innovative solutions to enhance healthcare delivery across the Marianas. (PR)



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Inmates complete NCCER CORE, OSHA 10 General Industry certifications



Department of Corrections inmates recently completed the National Center for Construction Education and Research's (NCCER) CORE and OSHA 10 General Industry certifications. They are seen here posing with NMTech instructor Wendell Posadas, center.

In a groundbreaking initiative aimed at reducing recidivism the Northern Marianas Technical Institute continued its partnership with the Department of Corrections Outreach Program.

In supporting the successful reintegration of inmates into society, a group of participants at DOC Outreach Program have proudly completed the National Center for Construction Education and Research's (NCCER) CORE Certification as well as obtained their OSHA 10 General Industry certification. This accomplishment marks a significant step forward in the institution's commitment to providing

meaningful educational and vocational opportunities for incarcerated individuals.

The NCCER CORE Certification is a comprehensive introductory program that covers essential construction skills, safety protocols, and hands-on training. By earning this certification, inmates have demonstrated their proficiency in fundamental construction techniques and safety measures, equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary for entry-level positions in the construction industry. Additionally, the OSHA 10 General Industry certification further reinforces their commitment to workplace

safety, making them valuable and responsible candidates for future employment.

“As the DOC commissioner, I am thrilled about the successful completion of the second cohort of DOC Outreach participants who have achieved NCCER Core certification along with their OSHA 10 General Industry Certification through NMTech on March 12, 2024. This achievement highlights their dedication to skill development and workplace safety, positioning them for future success as they reenter society. I commend these participants for their hard work and commitment

to personal and professional growth. Their accomplishments demonstrate the value of investing in technical education and training opportunities within our Northern Mariana Islands DOC,” said DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres.

“Active participation of the inmates in the DOC Outreach Program who attend NMTech courses offered have been instrumental in making this pilot program a success. Everyone has a part to play in rehabilitation and correctional services as we assist these individuals in reintegrating into our community. As they attain certifications, they are also equipped with skills and knowledge that make their transition into

the workforce smoother. We are happy to know that more incarcerated individuals are actively seeking education and are determined to get on the right track. I would like to congratulate them on their efforts in their studies, as well as on all the other efforts they have put in to assist other government agencies in construction-related projects,” said NMTech CEO Jodina Attao

The successful completion of these certifications opens up new pathways for inmates as they transition back into the community. With a recognized qualification in hand, they are better positioned to secure stable employment, support themselves and their families,

and become productive members of society. This initiative is a testament to the transformative power of education and the importance of investing in rehabilitation programs that promote long-term positive outcomes.

These participants are now enrolled in Carpentry Level 1 that started last month. They are now combined with the first DOC Outreach Cohort who previously completed Electrical Level 1 and Electrical Level 2 late last year.

For more information about the NCCER CORE Certification, OSHA 10 General Industry certification, and the vocational programs offered at NMTech, contact (670) 235-6684. (PR)

Supreme Court affirms default judgment for trespass

On June 21, 2024, the CNMI Supreme Court affirmed the lower court's entry of default judgment in *Triple J Saipan, Inc. v. Luis Pelisamen*. The lower court granted a default judgment against Pelisamen for trespass on lands leased by Triple J in Chalan Laulau.

Triple J sued Pelisamen in 2020. Pelisamen did not file a written answer as required by court rules and only first appeared in-person at the hearing for default judgment over five months later. Pelisamen claimed he owns the small portion of land where he was trespassing because his mother's estate has contested the land's ownership in a separate probate case against the estate from which Triple J leases the land. In response, Triple J presented a 2018 agreement signed by Pelisamen and his wife. In the agreement, Pelisamen stated that he waived all rights and claims to the land where he trespassed.

In affirming the lower court's order, the Supreme Court held that Pelisamen needed to have presented a meritorious defense to the default judgment to have it set aside. He did not refute the 2018 agreement and waived any affirmative defense of ownership by not responding to the lawsuit. Without a

meritorious defense, Pelisamen gave no reason to set aside the judgment.

The court also found that the lower court's denial of punitive damages against Pelisamen and its decision to stay the case were not an abuse of

discretion. In taking these actions, the lower court did not prejudice Pelisamen and, in fact, provided him greater opportunity to defend against the trespass claim. The Supreme Court affirms the lower court's judgment. (PR)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhcgov.net>

AMENDMENT (1) PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes: 04/20/24, 04/30/24, and 05/04/24

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. NMHC Division Updates
- b. CDBG-DR Housing, Infrastructure and Economic Development Updates
- c. Financial Statements Ending May 31, 2024 - CDBG-DR & NMHC

DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. CPD Updates
- b. HAF Updates

OLD BUSINESS

- a. USDA Program Update
- b. Yantze Corporation Status
- c. NMHC Software Upgrade
- d. NMHC Rental Properties Update
- e. Audit Status

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Loan Settlement Proposal (H&E Hofsneider)
- b. Vista Homes Change of Location and Additional Credits Request
- c. MVA Request for Extension
- d. NMHC Grant Program Policy and Procedure

LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. Personnel

ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Supreme Court reverses trial court in family business dispute

On June 24, 2024, the CNMI Supreme Court reversed the trial court's judgment finding Eun Soo Han liable to his brother-in-law, Sun Ha Park, for tortious interference with contract. The lower court's \$90,000 economic, emotional distress, and punitive damages award against Han has been vacated.

The trial court had determined that Han tortiously interfered with Park's contract as a director and treasurer of

the family business when he signed Park's name on a document resigning his position. While signing others' names onto documents was a regular business practice of the company, the court found that Han did not have express authority from his father, Park's father-in-law, the president of the company, to do so.

On appeal, the Supreme Court held that under common law Han had implied author-

ity from his father to remove Park from his position because Han's father had bought Park's entire interest in the company to resolve management disputes between Park and Han. Because a reasonable person in Han's position would have interpreted his father's objectives as impliedly giving him authority to remove Park from the company, the Supreme Court reversed the trial court's judgment. (PR)

 **COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-024

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-RFP-24-024, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations.” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 12, 2024**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the due date and time.

Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This proposal and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 21, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal, in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN C. MAFNAS
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAM
Purchasing Administrator

USDOL, USDOE approve CNMI's WIOA Unified State Plan

The CNMI governor's State Workforce Development Board is proud to announce that the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education have approved the CNMI's four-year Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Unified State Plan. This plan, which will take effect on July 1, 2024, and cover program years 2024 through 2027 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028), is a significant milestone in our efforts to enhance workforce development across the CNMI. The Unified State Plan outlines our strategic vision to integrate workforce services,

align education and training programs, and respond effectively to the needs of job seekers and employers. It reflects a coordinated approach to workforce development, emphasizing collaboration among various stakeholders, including educational institutions, employers, and community organizations.

"The approval of our WIOA Unified State Plan is a testament to our collective commitment to building a robust and inclusive workforce system," said Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. "This plan will provide us with the framework to enhance job

training programs, support disadvantaged workers, and strengthen our local economy."

Continued funding for several key WIOA programs is provided under the plan. Administered by the Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency, the WIOA Title I program aims to expand access to job training and employment services for adults, dislocated workers, and youth, focusing on comprehensive support for those facing barriers to employment. Under WIOA Title II, NMC's Adult Education Office will enhance adult education and literacy

programs to improve educational attainment and prepare individuals for postsecondary education and employment. Additionally, the WIOA Title IV program, through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, will strengthen vocational rehabilitation services to help individuals with disabilities achieve their employment goals and integrate into the workforce.

Key components of the Unified State Plan include:

■ Enhanced Workforce Development Programs: Expanding access to job training and employment services for all job seekers, including

youth and individuals facing barriers to employment.

■ Alignment of Education and Training: Ensuring that education and training programs are aligned with the needs of the local labor market to better prepare individuals for available jobs.

■ Employer Engagement: Strengthening partnerships with employers to align workforce development efforts with industry demands and support economic growth.

■ Innovation and Quality Improvement: Implementing innovative strategies to improve the effectiveness of services provided to job seekers and employers.

The U.S. Departments of Labor and Education have committed to providing ongoing technical assistance and support to help us implement the strategies outlined in the

plan. This collaboration will be crucial in achieving our vision and goals for workforce development in the CNMI.

"The partnership with the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education are invaluable," said Velma Ann Palacios, chairperson of the Governor's State Workforce Development Board. "Their support will enable us to effectively implement our plan and make significant strides in improving the quality and effectiveness of our workforce services delivered by the CNMI's public workforce system."

For more information about the CNMI's WIOA Unified State Plan and its workforce development initiatives, please visit www.cnmiwioa.gov.mp or contact the DOL Workforce Investment Agency at 670.488.1720 or email cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp. (PR)

IPI

From page 1

Office of the Attorney General chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr., who represents the CNMI government in IPI's Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings, filed a motion yesterday informing the court that IPI has withdrawn the initial \$400,000 of the \$7-million loan it secured and was approved DIP financing for.

In addition, Glass informed the court that IPI has since made a check payment of \$209,070 to the Department of Public Lands for its overdue lease payments.

However, the check has yet to clear, Glass stated.

"On June 21, 2024, this court held a hearing on debtor's first day motions where debtor indicated they had 'earmarked' money for payment to the Department of Public Lands from the initial \$400,000 loan that was approved by the court as part of the DIP interim financing. On June 21, 2024, the Department of Public Lands received a check for the overdue lease payment and the penalty/interest due for the lateness of the payment for a total of \$209,070. While a check was provided to the Department of Public Lands for the payment, as of this date, the check has not yet cleared. The Commonwealth will notify

the court once the check clears and the funds are deposited with the Department of Public Lands," he said.

Previously, Glass made a motion on behalf of the CNMI government to convert IPI's Chapter 11 bankruptcy to a Chapter 7 bankruptcy which essentially means the liquidation of all IPI's property and assets to pay off debts.

While Chapter 11 bankruptcy allows for a business/individual to reorganize and restructure, Chapter 7 bankruptcy essentially means the complete liquidation of a business' property and assets which may result in the company's dissolution.

Glass argues that based on public information available, IPI does not have the financial wherewithal to successfully proceed under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.

"The debtor has no business to reorganize, cannot show that there is a reasonable likelihood of rehabilitation, and has failed to maintain insurance. At the same time, the debtor seeks to encumber the bankruptcy estate with \$7,000,000 in post-petition financing (\$400,000 of which was allowed by this court's interim order, with the remaining amount to be decided at the final orders for First Day Motion's hearing on June 21,) putting the creditor body at a distinct disadvantage in the

case. Neither the interests of the debtor's creditors nor its estate would be served by having the debtor continue to unnecessarily incur the expenses associated with a Chapter 11 reorganization. Accordingly, there is 'cause' under section 1112(b) of the Bankruptcy Code for the court to convert [IPI's case] to a case under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code," he said.

Glass, in his motion, notes that the Commonwealth represents \$87,573,315, or 52.8%, of IPI's largest unsecured claims.

"This debt has accumulated due to debtor's failure to make payments to several Commonwealth agencies since 2020," said Glass.

Breaking the over \$87.5 million down, Glass said IPI owes \$62,010,280 to the Commonwealth for non-payment of Annual License Fees due Aug. 12, 2020; Aug. 12, 2021; Aug. 12, 2022; and Aug. 12, 2023.

In addition, IPI owes the Commonwealth Casino Commission \$17,620,000 for the non-payment of the Casino Regulatory Fees due Oct. 1, 2020; Oct. 1, 2021; Oct. 1, 2022; and Oct. 1, 2023, including associated penalties.

Lastly, Glass says IPI owes the Commonwealth Department of Finance Division of Taxation and Revenue \$7,943,035.39 for the non-payment of its taxes, including

penalties and interest.

"Debtor has not operated since 2020 and, thus, it has no income and is unable to pay post-petition obligations that continue to accrue—like its rent due April 28, 2024, that has not yet been paid, and the pending annual Casino License Fee that will be due Aug. 12, 2024. Debtor has no ability to generate revenue; its hotel building is unfinished and has never been operational. In addition, debtor has no ability to operate as a casino; its casino gaming license is currently suspended and, until they were stayed by the filing of this case, two proceedings seeking revocation of the license were pending due to debtor's failure to pay significant fees to the commission and for its failure to comply with an order of the commission requiring a payroll reserve," said Glass.

"The debtor has also failed to maintain appropriate fire and damage insurance and general liability insurance as required by its lease agreement LA 15-002S for its lease of public lands from the Commonwealth posing a significant risk to the debtor's bankruptcy estate and the public," Glass adds.

The NMI Bankruptcy Court is set to hear the motion in August.

Last April 19, 2024, IPI filed its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition with the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Court.

hold a ceremony are no different from the opposite gender's fees which is \$75 for the marriage license (resident applicants) and \$150 (non-resident applicants). For the marriage ceremony, it's \$30 for residents and \$75 for non-residents.

Same-sex marriage was legalized in the Northern Mariana Island by the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* on June 26, 2015, which struck down same-sex marriage bans nationwide. On June 29, 2015 then governor Eloy S. Inos issued a state-

To apply for marriage license and schedule a wedding ceremony, visit www.saipan-mayor.cnmi.gov website.

with drier conditions along and south of the equator.

"The slow transition to the summer monsoon pattern has been bringing rain to Yap proper, Ulithi, and Fais. However, until showers become more frequent and sustained, long-term impacts of the drought will continue to take its toll on water levels. Despite recent showers across Yap State and the northern RMI, water shortages may still occur in the coming weeks until showers become more frequent and sustained across the region," said NWS.

As for agricultural impacts, NWS said agricultural strain was reported from assessment teams and residents from islands across Yap State with taro patches drying up and coconuts drying out; and many reports of yellowing crops.

MAN

From page 1

for disturbing the peace, and appeared before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday for his bail hearing.

Lewis' bail was set at \$5,000 and after he waived his right to a preliminary hearing, he was ordered to return to the court on July 8 at 9am for an arraignment hearing. Office of Public Defender's Molly Dennert will be representing Lewis and assistant attorney general Heather Barcenas will be representing the government.

Until his next appearance in court, Lewis was released from the Department of Corrections on his own recognizance, to reside with his aunty, but ordered to stay away from the victim.

According to court documents, on Sunday, June 23 2024, at about 3:28am, the Department of Public Safety Central received a call from the female victim stating her

boyfriend had assaulted her at their residence in Chalan Kiya. The victim requested officers to meet her at the Mobil gas station in Chalan Kiya. At about 3:32am, a DPS officer arrived at Mobil Chalan Kiya and met with the victim who was seated inside the driver's side of her car. According to the documents, a strong smell of alcohol filled the vehicle. The victim appeared to be scared, crying with swollen lips. Officers learned from the victim that her boyfriend had assaulted her.

The victim told officers that the night before she had attended a work party, where she remained until about 1am when she called Lewis to pick her up. The victim stated that Lewis picked her up and they returned to their residence in Chalan Kiya where he started an argument about a guy that she was talking to at the party.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FEMALE

From page 1

In calendar year 2023, there were a total of 118 same-sex marriages with 71 being female and 47 being male. A total of 105 marriages were also for nonresidents couples.

"Many same-sex marriages or any marriages coming from China or like for nonresidents chose Saipan as their marriage destination because of our beautiful beaches and it's really paradise. You know we have so much that they can see and with the reviews that they

get online about Saipan, it's one of their potential targets to come to Saipan to get married," said Camacho.

Camacho said that he never encountered any issues or problems in dealing with marriage applications from other countries.

"So far, I've never had trouble with off-island marriages requesting, nothing so far. All we do is require them to submit all supporting documents that's needed including an English translator if they were to apply."

The current fees for obtaining a marriage license and to

Nunez, Villagomez lead GCA graduates

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystral_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Dozens of families and friends gathered for the Grace Christian Academy graduation ceremony last May 31, and the school set 15 Eagles a flight during their class of 2024 graduation ceremony at the school's campus in Navy Hill.

Valedictorian Andrew Jeren Nunez and salutatorian Nieves Ana Mafnas Villagomez led GCA's graduating Class of 2024. Aside from Nunez and Villagomez, the rest of the Top 10 were Hannah Maria Villagomez Tenorio, Kimy Clyde Ballesteros Kim, Julia Christine Mendieta Jinang, Xinzhi Eric Lai, Akira Ota, Kei Labao Lizama, Kean James Pajarillaga, and Seo Yun Jang.

As for awards, the Governor's Leadership Award went to Nunez and the Lt. Governor's Leadership Award went to Nieves Ana Mafnas Villagomez. Seo Yun Jang was the recipient of the Women's Affair's Office's Outstanding Female Graduate Award. The Eagle Leadership Award runner-up went to Seo Yun Jang and the Eagle Awardee was Hannah Villagomez Tenorio.

GCA character awards went to Kent Ouyang, Rain Jacob, and Akira Daniel Ota, and academic honors awards went to Rain Jacob, Kimy Clyde Ballesteros Kim, Xinzhi Eric Lai, Kei Labao Lizama, Akira Ota, Kent Ouyang, and Kean James Pajarillaga.

Graduates on the consistent principles list were also awarded. Julia Christine Mendieta Jinang, Andrew Nunez, Hannah Maria Villagomez Tenorio, Seo Yun Jang, Nieves Ana Mafnas Villagomez were named in this category.

Students with athletic accomplishments were also recognized and awarded.

During his remarks Nunez shared his appreciation for family and friends gathered there, and said that he sees his accomplishments only possible through their support.

"This award is a testament to your tremendous hard work and the love that you have unconditionally poured into me and my classmates. I am deeply appreciative and filled with gratitude for all the beautiful memories we have created and will continue to create in our future. This award is a testament to all of our hard work and the eternal bond we have formed with each other. This award is a testament to God's glory and the blessings He continuously provides. Standing here in this moment, I realize this achievement of receiving the valedictorian award is not mine alone. It is a



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Grace Christian Academy's Class of 2024 valedictorian Andrew Jeren Nunez smiles with his parents upon receiving his award during his graduation last May 31 at the school's campus on Navy Hill.

collective triumph, a reminder of the love, guidance, and encouragement of my loving family, friends, teachers, and God. Each of you have played a crucial role in my journey. This award is not just a recognition of my hard work, it is a testament to the community of people who have shaped and nurtured me and all of us graduates. For that, I am deeply and eternally grateful."

In her salutatorian remarks, Villagomez shared, "This award is an honor, but it's never the goal. A GPA in class ranks are numbers that don't represent the effort and perseverance of each of our dreams. Years down the line, when we reminisce on our high school lives, our GPA will be the last thing on our minds."

She reminded her fellow graduates that it was their moments together that will forever be etched in their memory.

"If you don't stop and look around within a while,

you'll miss it. Life will move fast, so make the most of it. If you love creating art, become an artist. If you love coding, become an IT. If you love baking, become a baker. You only live once. So, embark on a journey you'll love. Graduates, chase your dreams that scare you, believe in yourself, and learn."

She shared that she has learned that although scary, it was necessary to push yourself out of the comfort zone.

"However, you miss all the shots you don't take. So even when things get hard, in fitness, college, or any stage in life, embrace it, persevere, because you will grow as a person. Give yourself grace when things don't work out, and don't let failure prevent you from success. Figure out, grow, and eventually, you'll get that W. Graduates, there will be many challenges you conquer at finish lines you cross, such as the ones tonight.

Celebrate these challenges, but enjoy every step as you get there, and don't give up when the steps are hard. Eagles, I'm so proud of how far you've come. Extend those wings, and you'll fly far."

She also shared her deep appreciation to her family friends and those who invested in her.

"You believed in me when I couldn't believe myself. And you loved me, even when I felt unworthy of love. You have shaped our lives and helped us make it to where we are tonight, so thank you. Thank you to Grace Christian Academy for this award, and more importantly, for teaching us the value of working hard, showing grace, and loving others."

The keynote speaker chosen by the class was GCA's very own pastor Michael Rogers. In his remarks, he highlighted importance of the theme chosen by the graduating class, which is "love."

He shared that God's unconditional love was something to reflect through our lives and strive to give others in a broken world, even when it's tough.

"It's a love that we're called to replicate. It's a love we're called upon to replicate. To live out. [Apostle] Paul notes this by saying, it is a love that covers a multitude of sins. Seniors, as you go forward, practice it, demonstrate it, show how you can do it. This is not an easy message. This is a message that is calling you into a place of challenge. This is the place to go forward. This is our launch," he said.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Grace Christian Academy's Class of 2024 salutatorian Nieves Ana Mafnas Villagomez smiles with her parents upon receiving her award during her graduation last May 31 at the school's campus on Navy Hill.

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DPS-42400109 CIF TINIAN & ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: July 18, 2024
TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"Purchase of Two (2) Class "J" (CARGO VAN) Vehicles for the Department of Public Safety, Tinian and Rota Highway Patrol"

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MS. MARGARITA CAMACHO AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE AT mdlgcamacho@dps.gov.mp or at (670) 664 - 9122.

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*/S/ Anthony I. Macaranas
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*/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS*

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-DPS-42400114

SUBMISSION DATE: July 18, 2024
TIME: 09:30 A.M.

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THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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*/S/ Anthony I. Macaranas
COMMISSIONER, DPS*

*/S/ Brien S. Nicholas, Jr.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS*

<p>Cong Nie, F0497 BANES HOREY BERMAN & MILLER, LLC First Floor, Macaranas Building 4165 Beach Road, Garapan P.O. Box 501969 Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-5684 Fax: (670) 234-5683 Email: dnle@pacificlawyers.law</p> <p>Attorneys for Petitioner Sylvestre Vincent Atalig Palacios</p> <p>IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS</p> <p>IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF</p> <p>] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 24-0130 CV</p> <p>] NOTICE OF PETITION] TO APPOINT ADMINISTRATOR] AND FOR LETTERS OF] ADMINISTRATION] Deceased,] Date: June 27, 2024] Time: 10:00 a.m.] Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho</p> <p>TO: ALL HEIRS, DENISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF NORMAN JOSEPH SABLAM PALACIOS, DECEASED</p> <p>NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Sylvestre Vincent Atalig Palacios has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition to Appoint Administrator and for Letters of Administration in the above-captioned matter. The attorney of record representing Petitioner is Cong Nie of the Law Firm of Banes Horey Berman & Miller, LLC, P.O. Box 501969, Saipan, MP 96950.</p> <p>The petition is set for hearing at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 27, 2024 at the CNMI Superior Court, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any person who has any objection to the petition may file her or his objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing to present such objection or interest in the above captioned matter.</p> <p>Creditors and all persons having claims against the Decedent or his estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.</p> <p>Dated this 4th day of June, 2024.</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i> Clerk of Court</p>	
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<p>JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY CNMI STATE LIBRARY P.O. Box 501092 CK, 2745 Insatto Street, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 235-7322/23 or 7315 • Fax: (670) 235-7550 Website: http://www.cnmlib.org Email: cnmstatedlibrary@gmail.com</p> <p>REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS</p> <p>ADDENDUM NO. 1 RFP24-JKPL-42400099 "Architectural and Engineering Services for JKPL Solar PV Parking Structure Project"</p> <p>June 24, 2024</p> <p>This Addendum No. 1 is issued to change the RFP Number and reschedule the bid submission and opening date for the above-referenced RFP. The changes are due to technical issues accessing the RFP on Vendor Self Service. The changes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFP24-JKPL-42400099 is changed to RFP24-JKPL-42400117. A Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held at the JKPL Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan at 10:00 AM ChST on June 25, 2024. Questions regarding this RFP must be in writing and submitted via email to Mrs. Erlinda C. Naputi, Library Director, at enaputi@gmail.com no later than 4:00 p.m. ChST July 2, 2024. All questions and answers shall be shared with prospective proposers. For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original, three (3) hard bound copies, and one flash drive containing a digital copy must be submitted to the Acting Director of Procurement Services, located at Building no. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 AM ChST July 17, 2024. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent. Notices of Intent must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 AM ChST July 17, 2024 via e-mail to bidintent@of.dof.gov.mp. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original, three (3) hard bound copies, and one flash drive containing a digital copy must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than 10:00 AM ChST July 17, 2024 and must be received by the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than 10:00 AM July 25, 2024. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal. <p>All other requirements stated in the Request for Proposal shall remain as stated.</p> <p><i>/S/ Erlinda C. Naputi, Library Director Joeten-Kiyo Public Library</i></p> <p><i>/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director Division of Procurement Services</i></p>	
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Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Americans on all but paper: Biden action on US citizen spouses is good for all

In a long-awaited announcement Tuesday, President Joe Biden unveiled an executive action that would grant the undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens who've lived in the country for 10 or more years, as well as their children under 21, a designation known as parole-in-place. This in turn will clear the path for applications for permanent residence and, eventually, citizenship.

This order is about one simple thing: should people who have long lived in the United States, who have built lives here with American citizen spouses and very often children, pursuing their own version of the American dream, be allowed to access the process that they are legally entitled to anyway?

Because, let's not forget, parole-in-place is not creating a new pathway to citizenship, as it's being largely and erroneously described. It is allowing undocumented people to avail themselves of the existing system for families of U.S. citizens, which has been part of the country's immigration framework for more than seven decades.

The reason that people couldn't do this is because we've created a contradictory system that opens up pathways and punishes people for using them. Under current law, even though residency is available for people married to citizens and their children, the application must be done either entirely from outside the country, or after a person has reentered the country legally.

That seems easy enough, except for the fact that leaving the United States after having been present unlawfully for a year or more triggers a 10-year ban on reentry. The process to grant exemptions is cumbersome, slow and simply unnecessary.

There'll be those who call this an executive overreach, just as they do for the DACA program that, despite years of attacks and hyperbole from political opponents, remains popular with most Americans on both sides of the aisle.

We imagine that many of those who are screaming about White House tyranny from a political perspective were quite happy with the other recent executive action Biden has taken on immigration, which aims to all but shut down the border to humanitarian immigration — a drastic step that would have been a Stephen Miller pipe dream just a few years ago.

We're not convinced by that effort, having long preferred a federal program to help actually resettle and set up asylum seekers with language and housing supports as well as quicker work authorization, but it should certainly neutralize the idea that the president is pursuing some open borders agenda. What Biden is displaying here is both compassion and common sense, a mixture that is sadly all too lacking among some of his political opponents.

As with many pro-immigration moves, this will deliver benefits that are economic as well as social. These are people who in many cases are itching to pursue additional education, start businesses and generally grow the economic pie for everyone, who've been hampered by outdated and nonsensical policy. Giving them a shot at not just spiritually but formally entering the polity of their now adopted country will serve us all well.

Ultimately, there's hardly a greater patriot than the one who must strive to make this country their own.

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Almost running

A knee injury is thwarting efforts to log daily run times in my quest to make a 12-minute mile—I am down, but not out. The stage is set for a comeback in this personal grudge match against myself and the best that I can wish for each day is to be a better version of the person I was yesterday. It does come as something of a surprise that some people who have inquired about my very public endeavor to get healthier are more curious about my conditional run for the CNMI delegate position than they are about my actual physical ability or rather inability to run literally (as in one foot in front of the other at a semi-rapid pace)—I do hope to be running, at least slow-jogging, within the week.

About four weeks back I proposed a cockamamie scheme to run for public office, if I could lose 52 lbs. and run a 12-minute mile (all within approximately two months) as a kind of incentive or motivation to engage with a bigger purpose than myself. For many in-the-know (and admittedly for me at the time I blabbed about this idea in the newspaper), those targets seemed unlikely, if not foolish. One of my brothers was quick to add, "52 lbs. in two months is very dangerous and most likely not the best way to keep it off." He went on to say, "Run for office, but not your grave." He may be right, of course, and most people would likely agree, but here's the thing... I'm not most people and the more "they" tell me I can't do something, the more I want to see it done. Besides, "Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly" (Robert F. Kennedy).

Achieving such lofty, self-imposed milestones within stated timelines are still unlikely, especially with an injured knee, but since embarking on this new challenge and for the first time in years I feel a genuine sense of meaningful progress toward a healthier mind, body and soul. This may seem irrelevant (I don't think it is), but among other things, I took the time to teach my 12-year-old son how to play chess and have enjoyed sitting and connecting with him on that level. I can practically hear the wheels turning in his head as he formulates strategy in anticipation of multiple moves ahead—not just his own, but mine as well. I suspect it won't be long before he takes his first win. I also wake up in the mornings and literally smell the roses and herbs with the morning's scented breeze washing over me like rain. I can sit for hours in my garden day dreaming about everything and nothing all at once, hypnotized by the gentle swaying of leaves and elegant, blushing smiles of the flowers around me. I wish I was exaggerating—no doubt I have grown ridiculously soft in my old age—but the point is (through my most recent efforts to be a better ward of this old body, mind and soul) my senses have heightened and my appreciation for the simpler, natural joys and deeper connections with the people in my life are growing exponentially.

As for the idea of running for public office and speaking of irrelevant, if by some miracle I actually make my weight-loss and

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.



runtime goals then yes, I will absolutely run to be the next CNMI delegate to U.S. Congress. I'd feel compelled, if not inspired to do it, like it's meant to be—I have other reasons, of course—and not for nothing, but I'd do it well. Either way, I might as well weigh-in (see what I did there?) with some thoughts for anyone interested in hearing my over-generalized take.

Through the mouths of media pundits, anonymous commenters and pandering politicians (not to be confused with those who politick from a place of conviction, experience and understanding rather than with a single aim to garner more votes), even the most clear-cut issues can become hazy and often polarizing. Take tourism for instance, a pretty clear-cut issue—more tourists, stronger economy; less tourists, weaker economy—yet to hear the talking points and varying perspectives about it, you'd think the only thing that matters is what our political leaders say about it. For emphasis... it seems to matter more what is being said than what is actually being done. The "China-or-bust" narrative is an offshoot and a good example of political divisiveness and money-face aspirations masked as concern for our collective well-being. "ANEX VI" is taking on an air of the "black lives movement" whereby it's become offensive to say "all lives" or heaven-forbid "blue lives" matter. "All tourists" matter in this case and that includes tourists from China, but some would have us believe that saying "all" is an affront to the Chinese. Beyond that, it is disingenuous to suggest that not lifting limits on flights from China is the reason for our decline in tourism or lack thereof. It is also irresponsible to think that decisions ought to be made in a bubble and that all are mutually exclusive or worse that those which do not align exactly with our respective ideas will be the death of us all. More to the point, our economy is not the sole consideration when weighing options for more tourists from China and for that matter ANEX VI is not the only factor in whether we do or do not get more Chinese tourists to our shores. "This is a money digging world of ours; and, as it is said, 'there are more ways than one to skin a cat,' so are there more ways than one of digging for money" (S. Seba 1854).

On a related but different topic, cabotage is another hot-button issue and, as with ANEX VI, there are passionate leanings toward yet another request of our federal overseers to waive it for us. To hear some of the debate, one might think that anything

See ALMOST on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or

less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

One pillar of American racism is also propping up Fox News

I swear, every time I hear Newt Gingrich spout off, I think of the brilliant 2020 book by Isabel Wilkerson about the eight core beliefs that uphold a caste system. The pillar of “inherent superiority vs. inherent inferiority” is the one that keeps Gingrich on TV.

Conservatives have known he was full of it since his first campaign in 1974. Back then Gingrich touted a campaign slogan—“Newt’s family is like your family”—though it was common knowledge he was cheating on his wife.

“Jackie was kind of frumpy,” Gingrich’s first press secretary told Mother Jones. Gingrich reportedly told his campaign treasurer that his wife was not “pretty enough to be the wife of the president. And besides, she has cancer.”

So when Sean Hannity of Fox News wanted someone to criticize the credibility of Vice President Kamala Harris, the natural choice was of course ... Newt Gingrich. A man who faced ethics investigations and was forced out as House speaker. A man who avoided paying more alimony and child support when he had a \$4-million book advance coming his way. Yes, Fox News ... America is just dying to hear what Gingrich has to say about credibility.

“Kamala’s hopeless because she’s Kamala,” he quipped this month. “Anybody who watches her knows the idea of her being president makes Biden look good, which is really hard nowadays. You have to start with the idea that she has imprinted on the country, permanently, that she’s a very shallow, uneducated and uneducable person. Other than her weird laugh there’s no significant part of her.”

Harris graduated from Howard University and has a law degree. Her mother left India to come to the United States in 1958 to study biochemistry. Her father is an economist who taught at Stanford. They both earned doctorates in their re-

spective fields from Berkeley.

Gingrich called the vice president both “uneducated” and “uneducable” not for the sake of truth and honesty but to protect the pillar of caste that would be threatened by the truth about Harris. The one identified in Wilkerson’s book, “Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents,” as “inherent superiority vs. inherent inferiority.”

Citing 1942 observations from the Yale scholar Liston Pope, she wrote in the book: “A caste system has a way of filtering down to every inhabitant, its codes absorbed like mineral springs, setting the expectations of where one fits on the ladder. The mill worker with nobody else to ‘look down on’ regards himself as eminently superior to the Negro. The colored man represents his last outpost against social oblivion.”

For 50 years, Gingrich’s political positions have gravitated to whatever the polls said they should be. What has been consistent is his willingness to demean.

That sharp tongue was something that became a hallmark early on in his political career and was on full show when it came time to talk about welfare reform during the 1990s. His policy debates were opportunities to use dehumanizing rhetoric to refer to anyone he deemed “less than.” And by proxy, Gingrich supporters were also able to look down on those who needed assistance.

Even after leaving Congress in scandal, and even after his well-documented mistreatment of women, Gingrich somehow still communicates to his audience: “We are inherently better.” And that’s why he felt comfortable saying the nonsensical things about Harris that he did. He knows he’s lying, but his lies bring comfort to those who cling to that pillar of the caste system.

Ava DuVernay adapted “Caste” for the big screen in 2023 with the movie “Origin,” which recently started streaming and landed in the Top 3 on Hulu. It does a beautiful job of transform-

By LZ GRANDERSON

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



ing Wilkerson’s reporting into a compelling narrative about our shared humanity the joys and the pain. And it does so in desperate pursuit of understanding and healing as opposed to showcasing trauma with a punitive tone.

During last season’s cinematic commercial hurricane that was Barbenheimer, “Origin” did not get the attention it deserves. In its second life, I’m glad it is finding more viewers.

Voters who see this film very well might think about the upcoming election in a different way—seeing the various ways caste continues to manifest in America and the eight pillars on which it stands.

Gingrich is a smart man. He has a doctorate in European history. He chose his line of attack against Harris strategically, not to critique policies of the Biden administration but to prey on the discomfort a lot of people have about the idea of a Black woman being president. And to prop up that “inherent inferiority” pillar of America’s caste system.

While neither major party would pass a purity test, there is only one party that keeps putting a microphone in front of people like Gingrich ... and it’s not because the audience wants to hear the truth.

I’m a high school student—The TikTok ban violates our free speech

In April, President Joe Biden signed into law the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act, a measure that could effectively ban the video-sharing app TikTok in the United States.

The bill, passed as part of a military aid package, is set up as a protection against foreign adversaries, and gives the Beijing-based TikTok developer ByteDance nine months to sell the app or the ban will be triggered.

For high school students like myself, such a ban would severely limit our rights to free speech and expression.

Lawmakers should not overlook the huge number of young people on TikTok, with two-thirds of teenagers and 56% of younger adults in the U.S. reporting that they regularly use the platform.

Many of us rely on the app for news, activism and entertainment. “My friends and classmates use TikTok daily,” Aruja Misra, a high school sophomore from El Paso, Texas, tells me. “If it’s banned, we would have less visibility of the world.”

TikTok is also used for a variety of different educational purposes. In my school’s classrooms, we use the app to learn about topics ranging from science to history through short-form videos that allow us to digest the information more efficiently. We also often create engaging video skits on the app for school presentations.

Perhaps most importantly, TikTok allows us to become more aware of places and issues we wouldn’t know about otherwise.

In recent months, videos documenting human rights violations in countries like Palestine and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been dominating the hashtags and views across the app. As a result, we can see and hear directly about atrocities happening across the world.

As concerned young people, we can empathize, raise awareness for and help people living in unthinkable conditions, and reject the dehumanization that is sometimes projected by many of the largest mainstream news outlets.

“Ever since TikTok became a more political platform in 2020, (we) have been more socially aware of American politics. It (is) being used as a form of assembly” explains Suleikha Hakim, a high school junior from Columbus, Ohio. “I believe it is much easier to go viral, sharing locations of protests and sharing your political ideologies on TikTok.”

While there are legitimate concerns that TikTok can also help facilitate the spread of misinformation, the app shouldn’t mainly be used as a source for news, but rather to spread new ideas and encourage users to further research the issues they come in contact with. The platform forces us to ask ourselves questions about the world by offering us varying viewpoints instead of simply pushing one narrative.

TikTok presents us with perspectives that differ from those in U.S. news media sources, many of which can foster dangerous stereotypes about people in the Global South. This is why am-

By MARIUM ZAHRA

Progressive Perspectives

Marium Zahra is a 16-year-old independent journalist. Her work has been seen in Chalkbeat, PrismReports, Business Insider and The El Paso City Magazine.



plifying diverse perspectives is so important and why banning platforms that widen our view of the world strips away our right to free speech.

Moreover, as a student living in Texas, a state that has committed itself to censoring our ability to learn with anti-Critical Race Theory legislation and book bans, apps like TikTok are more important now than ever. With so few diverse perspectives in our textbooks, classrooms and discussions at school, Gen Z turns to TikTok to view more complete and accurate accounts of historical events and their implications today.

As the next generation of workers, lawmakers and voters, we deserve to see these perspectives and create our own political and social viewpoints without being limited by attacks on our freedom of expression.

proactive in our efforts (to include offering incentives, tax or otherwise) in courting other domestic airlines and/or opening new trade routes into other industries.

But as usual, I digress. I am faced with a literal breakdown in my physical abilities (to walk, much less run, in this case) and, if I’m being honest, the hardest adjustment is in the head. A part of me just wants to sit down and ride out the rest of my time from the sidelines (“in quiet desperation,” if you will). Life would be so much easier to simply disengage and fade into the background of self-pity; however, “Our suffering comes from our unlived life—the unseen, unfelt parts of our psyche” (C. Jung). I would prefer instead to run

into the sunset of my time here. I’ve come to understand the importance of running and how it has always been a key component, if not deciding factor, in whether or not I can get to where I’m going. The thing is, “If you don’t go after what you want, you’ll never have it. If you don’t ask, the answer is always no. If you don’t step forward, you’re always in the same place” (N. Roberts).

I hope to be running soon—to be a better version of who I am and to be someone for whom my kids and our future generations would not have to “bear the burden of (an) unlived life” (C. Jung). My name is James (“Jimbo”) Rayphand. I am almost running and I approve this message.

ALMOST

From page 6

short of waving cabotage for the CNMI leaves us at the mercy of United and their jacked-up price structure interminably with no alternative means of addressing it. While there is little doubt that limiting commercial competition is bad—hence anti-trust/monopoly laws—the economic bottom-line is not all that matters especially when delving into the fringes of foreign policy. Again, I’d contend that there are more ways to address the issue. Off the top of my head, perhaps we should be more

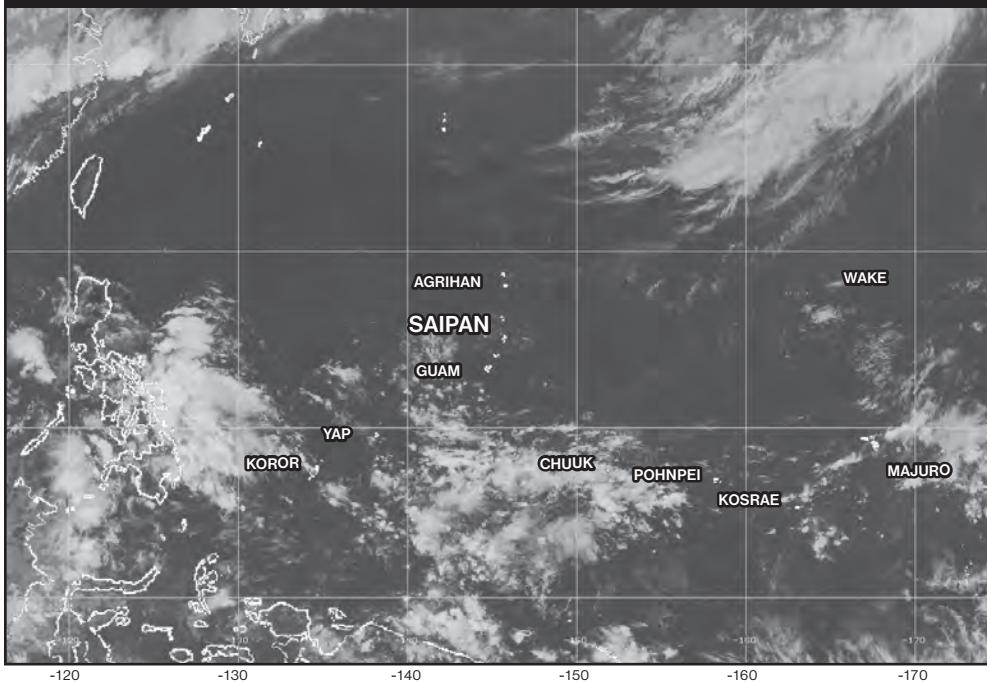
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of showers.

88° 78° 87° 77° 88° 78° 88° 78° 87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:23 AM MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving into the Marianas Waters, with scattered showers moving out. The Ritidian buoy shows combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of a 3 to 5 foot east swell and wind waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA		
	▲	▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Showers	91° / 78°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 81°
Chuuk	Light Rain	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 80°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:37 AM	9:54 PM
Wednesday	-	9:38 AM	10:39 PM
Thursday	-	10:36 AM	11:20 PM
Friday	-	11:32 AM	-
Saturday	12:00 AM	12:28 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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AROUND THE GLOBE

	▲	▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	63° / 54°
Beijing	Fair	89° / 68°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	89° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Sunny	72° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 59°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	92° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	52° / 43°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
New York	Cloudy	92° / 73°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 75°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°
Busan	Cloudy	76° / 70°
Rome	Showers	82° / 63°
Salem	Thunderstorm	86° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 54°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 71°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 71°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	97° / 81°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET

4:16 AM	Low Tide	1.57
8:39 AM	High Tide	2.07
4:18 PM	Low Tide	-0.26
11:41 PM	High Tide	2.14

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2024

DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS									
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN									
UA076 9:50AM 10:35AM Daily					UA174 8:00AM 8:50AM Daily									
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN									
UA824 11:50AM 2:25PM 1, 3, 5					UA825 5:30PM 9:55PM 2, 4, 7									
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM									
PR 111 5:55AM 7:55AM Daily					PR110 10:30PM 4:25AM+1 Daily									
UA193 6:50PM 10:55PM 2, 5 via Palau					UA184 10:25PM 4:20AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7									
UA183 7:10PM 9:10PM Daily					UA192 10:25PM 6:15AM+1 2, 5 via Palau									
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					UA184 11:50PM 5:45AM+1 2, 5									
7C3403/2305 4:45AM 10:20PM Daily					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN									
UA076/183 9:50AM 9:10PM Daily via Guam					UA192/174 10:25PM 8:50AM+1 2, 5 via Palau, Guam									
UA076/193 9:50AM 10:55PM 2, 5 via Guam, Palau					UA184/174 10:25PM 8:50AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam									
TW308 3:15AM 7:00AM Daily					7C3406 9:30AM 3:10PM Daily									
7C3405 4:10PM 7:45PM Daily					TW307 8:15PM 1:40AM+1 Daily									
7C3403 4:45AM 8:35AM Daily					7C3404 10:10PM 3:40AM+1 Daily									
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN									
HX77 4:05AM 7:00AM 1, 5					HX76 7:25PM 2:35AM+1 4, 7									
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)														
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.														
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024														
SAIPAN TO ROTA														
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY									
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily									
1302	SAIPAN													

US Coast Guard rescues 13 boaters near Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, demonstrating preparedness and efficiency, successfully conducted a search and rescue operation for a distressed vessel 13 nautical miles north of Guam on June 23, 2024, saving 13 boaters.

This successful rescue operation, a testament to the power of collaboration, underscores the critical importance of our partnerships and the vital role of proper safety measures at sea. Lt. Chelsea Garcia, the operation's search and rescue mission coordinator, highlighted, "Even with good weather conditions, having 13 people on a 23-foot boat can be risky. Our seamless collaboration with Guam Fire Rescue and other agencies ensured a swift and effective

response. This incident highlights the necessity of having reliable communication devices and lifejackets aboard, as they can make all the difference in emergencies."

The Joint Rescue Sub-Center, operated by U.S. Coast Guard watchstanders in Guam, received an urgent notification from Guam Fire Rescue and 911 dispatch of a 23-foot recreational vessel, the Helen, with 13 people aboard out of gas and adrift Sunday morning. The 911 call reportedly came from one of the boaters via cellular phone.

Watchstanders immediately diverted the 45-foot Response Boat-Medium (RB-M) crew from U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor to the location. Simultaneously, they issued an urgent marine information broad-



USCG

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, demonstrating preparedness and efficiency, successfully conducted a search and rescue operation for a distressed vessel 13 nautical miles north of Guam on June 23, 2024, saving 13 boaters.

Customs and Quarantine Agency, and Guam Police Department. The RB-M crew transported the survivors to Hagåtña, where partner agency officials met them at the pier for further care and assessment. All 13 survivors were seen by Guam Fire Rescue crews and refused treatment. The survivors are reportedly nationals of the People's Republic of China, as confirmed by law enforcement.

Weather conditions for the operation included east winds blowing at 15 knots and wave heights of around 3 feet with 4-foot swells. No watches or warnings are in effect.

This incident, once again, serves as a powerful reminder

of the dangers mariners face and the importance of wearing life jackets and having reliable communication devices aboard the vessel. The U.S. Coast Guard, always ready and prepared, continues to stand ready, in partnership with local, federal, and military agencies, to respond to maritime emergencies and protect life at sea.

strong U.S. presence in the Micronesia sub-region and adjacent areas, closely tied to local communities.

In Guam, U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor is a critical operational unit responsible for search and rescue missions, law enforcement, and maritime security. Equipped with advanced 45-foot and 29-foot response boats and a highly trained crew, the station is pivotal in executing the U.S. Coast Guard's mission in the Pacific region.

For more information about U.S. Coast Guard actions, please get in touch with CWO Sara Muir, Public Affairs Officer, at sara.g.muir@uscg.mil or uscgforcesmicronesia@gmail.com. (PR)

New Caledonia Indigenous independence leader transferred to mainland France for pretrial detention

NICE, France (AP)—A pro-independence leader in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia was transferred to a jail in mainland France to await trial on charges relating to two weeks of unrest in May that left nine people dead, the public prosecutor in the territory said Sunday.

Christian Tein, an Indigenous Kanak leader of the pro-independence party known as The Field Action Coordination Unit, was flown to mainland France overnight Saturday, along with six other activists, prosecutor Yves Dupas said in a statement.

The seven Kanak activists were transferred to pretrial detention on "a specially chartered plane" because of "the sensitivity of the procedure," Dupas said. Moving the detained activists into custody 17,000 kilometers (10,500 miles) away from their homeland would allow the investigation into their alleged wrongdoings to continue "in a calm manner and without any pressure," he said.

The Kanak people have sought for decades to break free from France, which first took New Caledonia in 1853.

Violence flared on May 13 in response to attempts by French President Emmanuel Macron's government to amend the French Constitution and change voting lists in New Caledonia. France declared a state of emergency two days later, rushing hundreds of troop reinforcements to help police quell the revolt that included shootings,

clashes, looting and arson.

The prosecutor did not name the other six detained activists who were transferred to mainland France. Reports in French media suggested they include the pro-independence group's communications director, Brenda Wanabo, and Frédérique Muliava, chief of staff to the president of New Caledonia's Congress.

The violence led to nine deaths and widespread destruction of shops, businesses and homes.

On Wednesday, 11 Kanak activists were arrested in a broad police raid targeting the Field Action Coordination Unit. The detentions were part of a police investigation launched on May 17, just days after protests against the Paris-pushed voting reform turned violent.

On Saturday, the activists appeared in front of the investigative judge. The charges they face include complicity in attempted murder, organized theft with a weapon, organized destruction of private property while endangering people, and participation in a criminal group with an intent to plan a crime.

In the past seven months, Tein's Field Action Coordination Unit has organized major, peaceful marches in New Caledonia against the French authorities and the Paris-backed voting reform that Kanaks fear would further marginalize them.

With France now plunged into frenzied campaigning for snap parliamentary elections, French President Em-

manuel Macron suspended the changes to voting rights in New Caledonia.

Tein and nine other pro-independence leaders were placed under house arrest when the violence started. French Interior and Overseas Territories Minister Gérald Darmanin said last month that Tein's party was a "small group which calls itself pro-independence, but instead commits looting, murder and violence."

The National Council of Chiefs of the Indigenous Kanak people rejected allegations that the group was involved in the deadly violence. Grand Chief Hippolyte Sineewami-Htamumu expressed full support for the pro-independence group, which has mobilized more than 100,000 people "of all ages and from all backgrounds" in peaceful protests in recent months in the capital, Nouméa, and throughout the island.

Tein was among pro-independence leaders who met with Macron during his whirlwind trip to New Caledonia last month to calm the unrest. After the meeting, the Kanak leader appealed to protesters to "remain mobilized (and) maintain all (forms) of resistance" to achieve their main objective, which he said was, "full independence."

New Caledonia became French in 1853 under Emperor Napoleon III, Napoleon's nephew and heir. It became an overseas territory after World War II, with French citizenship granted to all Kanaks in 1957.



GOLD SPONSOR

D&Q International Distributors-Dove Founders Club is a Gold Sponsor for the 2024 Joeten Memorial Golf Tournament following a donation of \$8,500. Fourth from left, D&Q resident manager Max Kretzers, Regional Sales manager Marilyn Marron, and Sales Brand manager Kay Shiro pose with 2024 Joeten Memorial Golf Tournament Organizing Committee chair Shigeki Tenorio.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING WELLNESS MISSION 2024

SAIPAN, TINIAN, ROTA



The Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, under the Office of the Governor together with the Public School System and other various CNMI Community Partners are in collaboration with the Department of Defense, 807th Medical Command (Deployment Support) are pleased to share information on the CNMI Operation Wellness Mission this June 2024.

**NO COST TO THE
COMMUNITY AND
NO INSURANCE REQUIRED**
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS

MILITARY PERSONNEL WILL OFFER:



Healthcare Exam Services



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Veterinary Care



Behavioral & General Public Health Education



Saipan

- Dentistry Services
- Optometry Services
- Healthcare Exams
- Behavioral & General Public Health Education

Location: Saipan Southern High School

- Veterinary Care

Location: Saipan Mayor's Office Dog Shelter
Koblerville Middle School

June 21: 8AM - 6PM **June 22:** 8AM - 12PM **June 23-27:** 8AM - 5PM
June 28: 8AM - 12PM

Tinian

- Dentistry Services
- Optometry Services
- Healthcare Exams
- Behavioral & General Public Health Education

Location: Tinian Junior/ Senior High School

- Veterinary Care

Location: Tinian Dog Control, Marpo Heights

June 21: 8AM - 6PM **June 22:** 8AM - 5PM **June 23:** 8AM - 12PM
June 24-27: 8AM - 5PM **June 28:** 8AM - 12PM

Rota

- Dentistry Services
- Optometry Services
- Healthcare Exams
- Behavioral & General Public Health Education
- Veterinary Care

Location: Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School

June 21: 8AM - 6PM **June 22:** 8AM - 5PM **June 23:** 8AM - 12PM
June 24-27: 8AM - 5PM **June 28:** 8AM - 12PM

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs Office at (670) 789-3558 / (670) 789-3559 / (670) 483-1812 / (670) 483-1813

Life & Style

Donald Sutherland dies at 88 after long illness

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Sutherland, the Canadian actor whose wry, arrestingly off-kilter screen presence spanned more than half a century of films from “M.A.S.H.” to “The Hunger Games,” has died. He was 88.

Sutherland died Thursday in Miami after a long illness, according to a statement from Creative Artists Agency, which represented him.

Kiefer Sutherland said on X he believed his father was one of the most important actors in the history of film: “Never daunted by a role, good, bad or ugly. He loved what he did and did what he loved, and one can never ask for more than that.”

The tall and gaunt Sutherland, who flashed a grin that could be sweet or diabolical, was known for offbeat characters like Hawkeye

Pierce in Robert Altman’s “M.A.S.H.,” the hippie tank commander in “Kelly’s Heroes” and the stoned professor in “Animal House.”

“Donald was a giant, not only physically but as a talent,” Sutherland’s “M.A.S.H.” co-star Elliott Gould said in a statement to The Associated Press as many paid tribute. “He was also enormously kind and generous.”

Before transitioning into a long career as a respected character actor, Sutherland epitomized the unpredictable, antiestablishment cinema of the 1970s. He never stopped working, appearing in nearly 200 films and series.

Over the decades, Sutherland showed his range in more buttoned-down—but still eccentric—roles in Robert Redford’s “Ordinary People” and Oliver Stone’s “JFK.” More,



Actor Donald Sutherland appears at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Oct. 13, 2017.

recently, he starred in the “Hunger Games” films.

A memoir, “Made Up, But Still True,” is due out in November.

“I love to work. I passionately love to work,” Sutherland told Charlie Rose in 1998. “I love to feel my hand

fit into the glove of some other character. I feel a huge freedom—time stops for me. I’m not as crazy as I used to be, but I’m still a little crazy.”

Born in St. John, New Brunswick, Donald McNichol Sutherland was the son of a salesman and a

mathematics teacher. Raised in Nova Scotia, he was a disc jockey with his own radio station at age 14.

“When I was 13 or 14, I really thought everything I felt was wrong and dangerous, and that God was going to kill me for it,” Sutherland told The New York Times in 1981. “My father always said, ‘Keep your mouth shut, Donnie, and maybe people will think you have character.’”

Sutherland began as an engineering student at the University of Toronto but switched to English and started acting in school theatrical productions. While studying, he met Lois Hardwick, an aspiring actress. They married in 1959 but divorced seven years later.

After graduating in 1956, Sutherland attended the London Academy of Music and

Dramatic Art to study acting. He began appearing in West End plays and British television. After a move to Los Angeles, a series of war films changed his trajectory.

His breakthrough was “The Dirty Dozen” (1967), in which he played Vernon Pinkley, the officer-impersonating psychopath. 1970 saw the release of the World War II yarn “Kelly’s Heroes” and “M.A.S.H.,” a smash hit that catapulted Sutherland to stardom.

“There is more challenge in character roles,” Sutherland told The Washington Post in 1970. “There’s longevity. A good character actor can show a different face in every film and not bore the public.”

If Sutherland had had his way, Altman would have been fired from “M.A.S.H.” He was unhappy with the director’s unorthodox, improvisational style. But the film caught on beyond anyone’s expectations.

‘Inside Out 2’ scores \$100M in its second weekend, setting records

NEW YORK (AP)—Weekend number two was just as joyous for “Inside Out 2.”

The Pixar sequel collected \$100 million in ticket sales in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday, setting a new record for an animated movie in its follow-up frame in theaters. The previous best second weekend for an animated title was the \$92 million for “The Super Mario Bros. Movie.” Only six movies ever have had better second weekends.

In just a week and a half, “Inside Out 2” has become 2024’s highest-grossing film to date with \$724.4 million globally, including \$355.2 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters. That passes the \$711.8 million worldwide total of “Dune: Part Two.” “Inside Out 2” will likely blow through the \$1 billion mark in about a week, which would make it the first film since “Barbie” to do so.

The extent of the “Inside Out 2” success startled Hollywood, which had grown accustomed to lower expectations as the film industry watched ticket sales this year

“Inside Out 2” came along.

The record haul for “Inside Out 2,” though, recalled past years when \$1 billion grosses were more commonplace for the Walt Disney Co. It is also a much-needed blockbuster for Pixar, which after experimenting with direct-to-streaming releases, reconsidered its movie pipeline and approach to mass-audience appeal.

Now, “Inside Out 2,” which dipped a mere 35% from its \$154 million domestic debut, is poised to challenge “The Incredibles 2” (\$1.2 billion) for the all-time top grossing Pixar release. It could also steer the

venerated animation factory toward more sequels. Among its upcoming films is “Toy Story 5,” due out in 2026.

For theater owners, “Inside Out 2” could hardly have been more needed. But it also reminded exhibitors of how feast-or-famine the movie business has become in recent years. Since the pandemic, movies like “Barbie,” “Spider-Man: No Way Home” and “Top Gun: Maverick” have pushed ticket sales to record heights, but fallow periods in between box-office sensations have grown longer. Ticket sales over Memorial Day last month were the worst in three decades.

Some of 2024’s downturn

can be attributed to release-schedule juggling caused by last year’s writers and actors strikes. The biggest new release over the weekend was Jeff Nichols’ motorcycle gang drama “The Bikeriders,” a film originally slated to open in 2023 before the actors strike prompted its postponement.

“The Bikeriders,” starring Jodie Comer, Austin Butler and Tom Hardy, came in on the high side of expectations with \$10 million from 2,642 venues in its opening weekend. “The Bikeriders,” which cost about \$35 million to produce, was originally to

be released by Disney before New Regency took it to Focus Features last fall.

The strong business for “Inside Out 2” appeared to raise ticket sales generally. Sony Pictures’ “Bad Boys: Ride or Die” held well in its third week of release, collecting \$18.8 million. It remained in second place. The “Bad Boys” sequel, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence, has grossed \$146.9 million domestically thus far.

Next week, the sci-fi horror prequel “A Quiet Place: Day One” and Kevin Costner’s Western epic “Horizon: An American Saga—Chapter 1” will hope some of the “Inside Out 2” success rubs off on them.

Alcoholic boyfriend manages to be even worse as father

DEAR ABBY: I dated a guy who hid from me the fact that he was a severe alcoholic. After I realized it, I continued to date him, thinking it was love when it wasn’t. Unfortunately, after two years of dating, I became pregnant.

When I told him, he moved back in with his mother in another state. He doesn’t work, won’t get a job and calls only when he’s good and ready. He has never paid any child support. He’ll call once every few months and promise our now 4-year-old daughter that he’s coming to see her, but he never has.

He saw her only twice when she was a baby, and I had to travel to him for both of those visits. (He wasn’t there for her birth, either.) My daughter cries for him. He also has an 18-year-old daughter from a previous relationship I found out about only after I was pregnant. He abandoned her, too.

Should I cut off contact to save my child from being sad for a man she doesn’t even know?

DISILLUSIONED IN GEORGIA

make promises he had no intention of keeping. Do not allow that to continue.

Because the reason he gives for not contributing to child support is he doesn’t work (are you SURE this is true?), consider discussing this sorry situation with a lawyer. It might be worth the money to pay for one consultation.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 37 years. We’ve always been happily married. He gives me loving greeting cards, telling me how much he loves me, and so much more.

Over the past few days, he has been snapping at everything I say. He twists it around and accuses me of saying it nastily. I didn’t, and when I repeated it the same way, he disagreed. He’s so touchy. He even told me a few times to shut up and not talk to him. For a little while I didn’t. Then I remarked, even though he tried to shut me up, that if he hates me so much, he must have a girlfriend. He got furious at that.

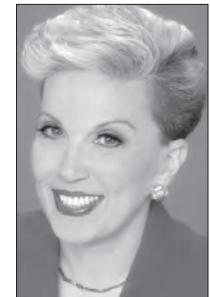
I finally suggested he see a doctor. I thought maybe he’d had a stroke. Hopefully, he’ll think about that, because something has changed. What do you think?

MISTREATED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR MISTREATED: What has been happening with

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



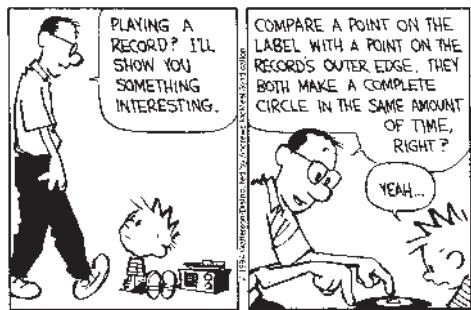
your husband is very recent. Give it a few weeks and see if it is a lasting change. If it is, THAT would be the time to talk to your husband. Tell him the change in his personality is striking, and you are worried about him. His problem may be emotional or financial and have nothing to do with you. If there is a chance that there could be a medical problem, alert his doctor at that time.

■ ■ ■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

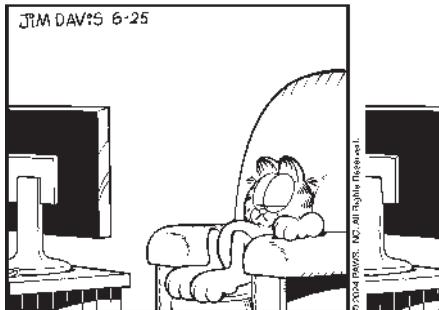
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	32	Bill-boards	52	Calif. clock	11	You love (Lat.)
1 John Irving hero	33	Top-secret	16	Guided	12	Guided
5 Auction action	35	Squeezes (out)	20	Libertine	21	"Nope!"
8 "boy!"	36	Alsace assents	22	Bistro	23	handout
12 "The Time Machine" people	37	Aspara-gus unit	24	Cushions	25	Army bigwigs
13 Aussie hopper	38	Fanta-sized	26	Healthy dessert	27	Yard tool
14 Former Chicago mayor Emanuel	41	Kung — chicken	28	Classic theaters	29	Cold War initials
15 Chinese-born concert pianist	42	Bring up	31	Pal	32	Geological periods
17 Beagle's bane	43	Curly-tailed dog	34	Raspy	35	Cutting tool
18 Actor Cariou	48	Pismires	37	Sans pizzazz	38	Sans pizzazz
19 Wee amounts	49	Boom times	39	Gambling city	40	Diner sign
21 Called a strike?	50	Roll call reply	41	Blog entry	41	Blog entry
24 Rude dude	51	Audio equipment	44	Some printers	44	Some printers
25 Passion	52	brand	45	Haw preceder	45	Haw preceder
26 Frilly ornamentation	53	Biblical pronoun	46	Mine matter	46	Mine matter
30 Bonn conjunction			47	Marry	47	Marry



Yesterday's answer 6-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Busy Philipps, 45; Linda Cardellini, 49; Ricky Gervais, 63; Carly Simon, 81.

Happy Birthday: Shed light on obscure situations. Let your thoughts be known, and you'll snag a leadership position. Your ability to nurture and make things right will put others at ease and make you proud. Proceed with the empathy and love for others that you expect in return, and you'll set a standard among your peers. A change is within reach. Your numbers are 6, 11, 19, 25, 32, 37, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't start something you cannot finish. Keep your thoughts and feelings to yourself until you sort through the facts and have time to calm down. Put your energy where it can do some good, and participate in a cause that improves your life and the world. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anger set in when action is required. Take a leadership position. You can make a difference if you are bold and brave. Silence is golden when your actions unite people and help those less fortunate. Seize the moment, and praise will follow. ☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Chase information and prepare to act. Trust yourself to make changes that encourage others to follow suit. A disciplined mind and plan will make a difference and save money and your reputation. Focus on what you can accomplish. ☀️☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Push for what you want. Set high standards and do your part, and you'll build a following. Think outside the box and use discipline and foresight to implement your plan. You have plenty to gain if you complete your task. ☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Just do it. Distance yourself from those standing between you and what you want. Pay attention to details and oversee every move you make. There is little wiggle room today, so leave nothing to chance. If you hesitate, you will fall short. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't try to do the impossible. Look for opportunities and put your experience, knowledge and energy where it brings the highest return. Refuse to let emotional incidents fracture your chance to advance or test your integrity or reputation. Try to see the good in everything and everyone. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be aware of what's happening around you, and prepare to sidestep anything you want to avoid encountering. Pay attention to events that offer alternatives and answers and show results. Hanging out with people who share your insights will be beneficial. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Fix your surroundings to accommodate what you want to pursue. Expand your mind rather than limit yourself because you feel you must associate with something or someone who is outdated or stagnant. Try something new and exciting that will open a channel that leads from boredom to enthusiasm. ☀️☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn from your mistakes and move forward without trepidation. Expanding your interests, knowledge and desires will take you on a journey that stretches your imagination, makes you face your fears and brings you to a place of comfort. Test your skills, and embrace life and love. ☀️☀️

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Unusual people, places and pastimes will draw your attention. Go with the flow and explore the possibilities. Life, love and happiness await if you invest time and money into whatever excites you the most. Press the buttons that bring about change. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Sit tight, wait, and watch anyone pushing you to make a change or act hastily. Spending more time and energy fixing up your surroundings and mulling over how you feel and what you can do to relieve stress will help you find solace. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take the high road and don't look back. Refuse to think someone else's ideas can be better for you than your own. Cozy up to someone you feel has long-term potential as a personal or business partner. Earn your spot on the road to opportunity. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are appealing, unique and commanding.

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THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



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Birthday Baby: You are appealing, unique and commanding.

☀️: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☀️: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☀️: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀️: Aim high; start new projects. ☀️: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

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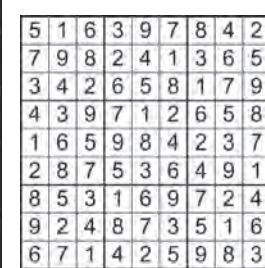
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE SAXOPHONE

Solution: 8 letters



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6/25

Alto, Arpeggio, Band, Baritone, Bass, Classical, Cleaning, Concert, Embouchure, Ensemble, Flat, Harmony, Heavy, Hole, Jazz, Lessons, Ligature, Melody, Mouthpiece, Neck Strap, Octave, Orchestra, Perform, Pipe, Pitch, Play, Practice, Reed, Rehearse, School, Sheet, Sling, Solo, Song, Soprano, Sound, Tempo, Tenor, Theater, Tuning, Woodwind

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Difficulty: ★★

6/25

Difficulty: ★

6/24

Thorpe combines on 5-hitter to lead White Sox over Tigers



DETROIT (AP)—Drew

Thorpe pitched six scoreless innings and got his first major league win in his third start, pitching Chicago over Detroit.

Thorpe (1-1) allowed two hits and four walks while striking out five. The 23-year-old right-hander didn't get a decision in his debut at Seattle on June 11, then lasted 3 1/3 innings in a 12-5 loss at Arizona on June 16.

A second-round pick by the Yankees in the 2022 amateur draft, Thorpe was dealt to San Diego in the December trade that brought Juan Soto to New York, then was traded to Chicago in March as part of a package for right-hander Dylan Cease.

Korey Lee homered, Nicky Lopez had three hits and an RBI, and Andrew Vaughn, Paul DeJong and Lenyn Sosa drove in runs as the major league-worst White Sox (21-57) stopped a three-game losing streak.

Justin Anderson, John Brebbia and Michael Kopech pitched an inning each, with Brebbia allowing Mark Canha's RBI groundout in the eighth.

Detroit (35-41) has lost five of six, scoring six runs during that span.

CARDINALS 9, GIANTS 4

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Alec Burleson had a career-high five RBIs with his first multi-homer game and St. Louis overcame a three-run, first-inning deficit to beat San Francisco and move back over .500.

Paul Goldschmidt and Brendan Donovan also homered for the Cardinals, who at 38-37 matched their season high of one game over .500. They were also 5-4 and 36-35.

Burleson hit a three-run homer in the fourth off Jordan Hicks for a 5-4 lead and a two-run drive against Sean Hjelle in the sixth, his 12th home run this season. The top three batters in the Cardinals' order were 7 for 14 with three homers and eight RBIs.

Facing his original team for the first time, Hicks (4-4) allowed a career-high five earned runs, six hits and three walks in four innings. The 27-year-old right-hander was traded to Toronto last July 30, then became a free agent and signed a \$44 million, four-year contract with the Giants.

San Francisco has lost four straight and six of seven.

CUBS 8, METS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Jameson Taillon pitched seven crisp innings, Christopher Morel homered and Chicago cooled



AP
Chicago White Sox pitcher Drew Thorpe (33) throws against the Detroit Tigers in the fourth inning of a baseball game, Saturday, June 22, 2024, in Detroit.

off New York with a victory.

Taillon struck out a season-high 10 in his first win since May 4. The right-hander allowed one run and six hits.

New York averaged 6.6 runs and 10.3 hits while going 12-3 in its previous 15 games, including an 11-1 victory in the series opener on Friday. But it was held in check by Taillon (4-3) and two relievers on a hot afternoon at Wrigley Field.

Francisco Alvarez homered for the second straight day for New York, and J.D. Martinez had two of the team's seven hits. Tyler Megill (2-4) lasted just three innings in his worst start of the season.

PIRATES 4, RAYS 3

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Jared Jones struck out eight, Oneil Cruz homered into the Allegheny River and Pittsburgh beat Tampa Bay Rays.

Jones (5-6) overcame some early control issues to allow two runs over seven solid innings to bounce back from a pair of recent shaky starts.

The 22-year-old right-hander hit Brandon Lowe and Amed Rosario in the first inning, catching Rosario's helmet with a 99 mph fastball that forced the third baseman to exit with facial lacerations. Jones then settled down.

ASTROS 5, ORIOLES 1

HOUSTON (AP)—Ronel Blanco pitched seven strong innings and Chas McCormick homered twice to lead Houston to a win over Baltimore.

Yordan Alvarez added a two-run shot to help Houston extend its winning streak to four games.

Blanco (8-2), who threw seven hitless innings in his last start, allowed four hits and a run with three strikeouts for

his third straight win.

Alvarez put the Astros on top with his 16th homer, which came off Corbin Burns (8-3) in the third, and McCormick made it 4-1 in the fifth. McCormick got his fifth career multihomer game when he connected again in the eighth.

RANGERS 6, ROYALS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Jon Gray allowed two hits over five innings to rebound from his worst major league start and Wyatt Langford hit an eighth-inning grand slam that led Texas over Kansas City.

Gray (3-3) gave up back-to-back third-inning singles while throwing 51 of 72 pitches for strikes. He gave nine earned runs and 11 hits in three innings-plus last Monday in a 14-2 loss to the New York Mets.

Langford, a rookie who debuted on opening day, connected off Angel Zerpa for the Rangers' first grand slam this season.

GUARDIANS 6, BLUE

JAYS 3

CLEVELAND (AP)—José Ramírez and Bo Naylor hit two-run homers and Steven Kwan added a solo shot while pushing his average back near .400, leading Cleveland to a win over Toronto.

All three homers came off José Berrios (6-6) as the AL Central-leading Guardians (48-26) moved 22 games over .500 for the first time this season.

Rookie Daniel Schneemann also homered for Cleveland, which has 86 homers in 74 games after hitting just 48 at the same point a year ago.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa homered twice and Davis Schneider connected for Toronto, which

lost its fifth game in a row.

PHILLIES 12, DIAMONDBACKS 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Zack Wheeler allowed only one run and two hits in seven innings of work Saturday while Bryce Harper, Alec Bohm, Nick Castellanos and David Dahl all homered as Philadelphia cruised to a 1 win over Arizona.

The win allowed the Phillies to be the first National League team to record 50 wins with a 50-26 record. The New York Yankees have 51 wins entering a Saturday night game against the Braves to lead the majors as the season's halfway point approaches.

Castellanos had a season-high five RBIs and hit his second homer in as many days in the victory. Harper added three RBIs and hit his 18th of the season into the second deck in right field in the third inning during a 4-for-5 day at the plate. Bohm followed Harper's shot with his eighth of the second to left-center field.

MARINERS 9, MARLINS 0

MIAMI (AP)—Logan Gilbert pitched eight scoreless innings for the second straight start and Seattle beat Miami.

Gilbert (5-4) scattered four hits, struck out six and was aided by three double-play grounders, lowering his ERA to 2.71. The 27-year-old right-hander walked one, ending a string of three straight outings without allowing a base on balls.

Dominic Canzone tied his career high of four hits with a homer and three singles, scoring three runs. Ryan Bliss doubled twice and singled for the Mariners, who stopped a three-game skid. Dylan Moore

had two doubles among Seattle's seven extra-base hits.

Canzone, Moore and Bliss, the bottom three in Seattle's batting order, combined to go 9 for 14 with six runs and five RBIs.

Miami had won its previous three games, all walk-offs.

TWINS 10, ATHLETICS 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Bailey Ober struck out 10 in a four-hitter for his first career complete game and Minnesota used a seven-second inning to rout Oakland Athletics.

Ober (7-4) needed just 89 pitches to finish the game while tying a career high in strikeouts and walking none. He allowed two runs on solo homers by JJ Bleday and Tyler Soderstrom in the first two innings.

Manuel Margot hit a three-run homer in Minnesota's big inning against JP Sears (4-7). Jose Miranda and Carlos Correa each had three hits for the Twins, who snapped a three-game skid.

The A's had won three of four before Saturday's defeat in front of an announced crowd of 9,299.

RED SOX 4, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP)—Rafael Devers drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning and Jarren Duran made a game-saving defensive play in the ninth as the Boston Red Sox rallied to beat the Cincinnati Reds 4-3 on Saturday.

Pinch-hitter Rob Refsnyder singled home the tying run before Duran tagged on Devers' fly ball and slid home just ahead of left fielder Stuart Fairchild's throw.

Kenley Jansen retired the Reds in the ninth for his 14th save in 15 chances. He got a huge assist from Duran, who leaped to get his glove above the center field fence to rob Fairchild of a tying home run.

Jansen's save was his 434th, and he moved ahead of Baltimore's Craig Kimbrel into sole possession of fifth on the career list.

PADRES 6, BREWERS 4

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Rookie Jackson Merrill hit a 440-foot, three-run homer to the base of the batter's eye in center field and had a bat flip to match as San Diego beat Milwaukee for their fourth straight win.

Ha-Seong Kim and Kyle Higashioka also homered for the Padres, who popped back above .500 and will go for a four-game sweep on Sunday.

The Padres were cruising toward a shutout when Jhony

Brito loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth on two singles and a walk, and then allowed Brice Turang's grand slam to left.

Robert Suarez came on to get the final out for his 19th save.

YANKEES 8, BRAVES 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 28th home run and the New York Yankees stopped a three-game losing streak with a win over Atlanta.

Judge had three RBIs for a major league-high 70, Juan Soto reached base four times on a single and three walks, and Marcus Stroman won for the fifth time in six decisions. The big league-best Yankees (52-27) had lost five of their previous six games.

Stanton doubled off the center-field wall in the fourth inning and winced when he rounded third base on Gleyber Torres' double, which gave the Yankees a 4-1 lead.

Trent Grisham pinch hit for Stanton in the sixth, and the Yankees said the oft-injured 34-year-old slugger had left hamstring tightness and will have imaging on Sunday.

ROCKIES 8, NATIONALS 7

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon drew a bases-loaded walk on a full-count, pitch-clock violation by Kyle Finnegan, and Colorado scored two runs in the ninth inning for a victory over Washington.

Colorado had four straight singles to open the ninth off Nationals closer Finnegan (2-4) to bring up McMahon, who fell behind 0-2. Finnegan had converted 21 of his previous 23 save chances.

Hunter Goodman and Jake Cave singled to open the inning, and Brenton Doyle singled to tie it after fouling off two bunt attempts. Ezequiel Tovar hit a line single to right to load the bases.

DODGERS 7, ANGELS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tyler Glasnow pitched seven strong innings, Shohei Ohtani homered for the second straight game against his old team and the Dodgers beat the Angels to split the Freeway Series.

Ohtani blasted a 455-foot, two-run shot in Friday's 10-inning, 3-2 loss. He went even farther in the third inning Saturday night, his 23rd homer traveling 459 feet to right for a 3-0 lead. Gavin Lux led off with a solo shot against Zach Plesac (1-1).

Glasnow (8-5) allowed two runs—one earned—and two hits and struck out 10 against no walks in front of a sellout crowd of 53,273.

Frenchman Alexandre Sarr to go No. 1, more big men to follow



French 7-footer Alexandre Sarr has widely been projected to follow the footsteps of fellow countryman Victor Wembanyama as the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft.

But Sarr isn't the only big man expected to have his name called.

Though the June 26 draft isn't loaded with bigs, it does have the two-time national college player of the year and a two-time national champion available.

UConn's Donovan Clingan won two national championships and could go in the lottery with his strong pick-and-roll skills and shot-blocking ability.

Purdue's Zach Edey is expected to go much later in the first round due to his lack of mobility and perimeter shooting, but he is the first two-time national player of the year since Ralph Sampson, so there's likely a place for him in the NBA.

This year's draft also includes Kyle Filipowski from Duke, Indiana's Kel'el Ware and Baylor's Yves Missi, so there will be chances for teams looking to add size.

Then again, some team may even take a chance on using a first-round pick on Southern California's Bronny James, son of NBA career scoring leader LeBron James.

1. ATLANTA HAWKS: Alexandre Sarr, center, France

Sarr doesn't have the all-around skills of Wembanyama, but then no one really does. He's still extremely talented, an athletic 7-footer who can wreck rims and the hopes of opposing shooters. Sarr's shot still needs some work, but he could end up becoming a franchise player in the next few years. Atlanta fans should love watching him throw down lobs from Trae Young.

2. WASHINGTON WIZARDS: Zaccarie Risacher, forward, France

Many NBA mock drafts have Risacher going No. 1—and for good reason. The 6-foot-9 forward has the skills of a guard and should be a perfect fit for today's NBA. Risacher is a superb catch-and-shoot wing who can beat defenders off the dribble and has a huge defensive upside with his length and athleticism. He may end up being the franchise player the Wizards need in their rebuild.

3. HOUSTON ROCKETS: Reed Sheppard, guard, Kentucky

The Rockets need shooters and Sheppard is certainly that. The 6-3 guard may be the best shooter in the draft — his 52% mark would have led Division I last season if he had enough attempts to qualify. He has a high basketball IQ — both parents played at Kentucky—and averaged 12.5 points as a freshman.

4. SAN ANTONIO SPURS: Stephon Castle, guard, UConn

The Huskies were loaded with talented players in their title defense last season and Castle had no trouble fitting in as a freshman. The 6-6 guard is a solid playmaker who can get his own shot and is a hard-nosed defender. His size and athleticism could end up making him one of the best players of the draft, particularly if he improves his outside shot. Even at 19,

he's already a proven winner.

5. DETROIT PISTONS: Matas Buzelis, forward, G League Ignite

Buzelis bypassed college basketball to play in the G League and improved his draft status by gaining muscle while rounding out his game. The 6-8 forward is an excellent playmaker who can see over defenders and finishes strong at the rim in transition. Buzelis will need to work on his perimeter shooting, though: He hit 27% from 3 for the Ignite last season.

6. CHARLOTTE HORNETS: Donovan Clingan, center, UConn

Clingan's a proven winner as the massive anchor to UConn's back-to-back NCAA titles. Though he doesn't fit the NBA mold of a perimeter-shooting big man, the 7-2, 280-pounder is a load for opponents inside at both ends of the floor and would be a great fit for a Charlotte team that was 25th in the NBA in blocked shots last season. Clingan also is excellent at finishing on lobs, which could be a great fit with LaMelo Ball running the point in Charlotte.

7. PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS: Rob Dillingham, guard, Kentucky

Portland was last in the NBA in 3-point percentage last season and Dillingham's 44% mark in his lone season at Kentucky was nearly 10 points higher than the Blazers' percentage. Though small at 6-1, 165 pounds, Dillingham has a big game with an ability to score at three levels and has the quickness to beat defenders off the dribble. His size could be a liability on defense.

8. SAN ANTONIO SPURS: Ron Holland II, forward, G League Ignite

Holland could end up being the best defensive forward in the draft. The 6-7 forward has a nose for the ball defensively — he averaged more than 2 steals a game in the G League — and is excellent in the open floor. Holland can create his own shot, but needs to make more after shooting 24% from 3 on 3.6 attempts per game last season. The Spurs are at least in a position to wait for him to develop.

9. MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES: Dalton Knecht, guard, Tennessee

A knockdown shooter, Knecht could be a great complement to Ja Morant. The 6-6 shooting guard is superb at shooting off screens and can fill it up in a hurry, like he did while scoring 37 points against Purdue in the Elite Eight. Knecht is close to a finished product already, a 23-year-old who should contribute right away.

10. UTAH JAZZ: Tidjane Salaun, forward, France

Salaun can make it three French players as lottery picks in this year's draft. The 6-9 forward fits the NBA style of play. He can shoot it from deep and improved his game — not to mention his frame — while playing in the French LNB Pro A, the same league as Wembanyama before his move to the NBA. Salaun may be a longer-term project, but has massive upside.

11. CHICAGO BULLS: Cody Williams, guard, Kentucky

Colorado

He's a thin 6-8, but has the size and athleticism to shoot over or get around defenders. Williams can create his own shot, is an excellent finisher and has good playmaking skills for a shooting guard. He shot a respectable 41% from 3 during his freshman season and has a huge defensive upside with his length and agility.

12. OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER: Isaiah Collier, guard, USC

While Bronny James got much of the hype in Southern California, Collier was the higher-rated prospect out of high school. Once projected as a lottery pick, his draft stock took a bit of a hit during an inconsistent lone season with the Trojans. Even so, Collier has the type of game and solid frame that could translate well in the NBA. The 6-3 guard plays hard with the strength and quickness to get past defenders, but needs to work on his perimeter game after shooting 34% from the college 3-point line.

13. SACRAMENTO KINGS: Devin Carter, guard, Providence

The 6-3 guard has a massive wingspan and vertical leap, which helped allow him make a big jump from 13 points to 19.7 last season. Carter has a high basketball IQ, is a hard-nosed defender and an excellent rebounder for a guard. The son of former NBA player Anthony Carter, he was the Big East player of the year in a league that included Clingan and Castle.

14. PORTLAND TRAILBLAZERS: Ja'Kobe Walter, guard, Baylor

The 6-5 guard was not shy in putting it up from 3 for the Bears as a freshman, taking more than four a game while shooting 34%. His long wingspan and athleticism give Walter the potential to become a defensive stopper at the next level. Shot selection and adding a bit of muscle to his 197-pound frame will be the biggest adjustments in the move to the NBA, but he's only 19, so there's plenty of time.

15. MIAMI HEAT: Nikola Topic, guard, Serbia

At 6-6, Topic is a superb passer with great vision and size to see over defenders. He also has the strength to get into the lane and can finish strong at the rim, making him able to control a game even without being a great 3-point shooter. Would be projected to go higher—maybe with the Spurs' first pick at No. 4—but medical tests showed he has a partially torn ACL in his left knee, which he injured twice last season in Europe.

16. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS: Jared McCain, guard, Duke

He was Duke's toughest competitor during his lone season in Durham and is an elite shooter who could fit in on any team. McCain is an excellent shooter off screens and in the pull-up game, but can also run the point if needed. He has a high basketball IQ, so should pick up the NBA game fairly quickly.

17. LOS ANGELES LAKERS: Kel'el Ware, center, Indiana

The 7-footer with a 7-5 wingspan has the length and game to have an immediate impact in the NBA. Ware

quickly moved up NBA draft boards during team workouts and is a strong rim protector. He's also excellent on lobs and shot 43% from 3 last season, making him the type of stretch big man NBA teams covet.

18. ORLANDO MAGIC: Carlton Carrington, guard, Pittsburgh

The player known as "Bub" gets buckets in bunches and loves the pull-up J. The 6-4 guard has good size to play point guard and, at 19, has plenty of time to develop. His biggest downside: perimeter shooting. Carrington didn't lack for confidence in his freshman season, attempting 6.1 3s per game, but shot 32% from the arc.

19. TORONTO RAPTORS: Zach Edey, center, Purdue

Even with a lack of mobility and perimeter shooting, Edey was still the first repeat AP national player of the year since Ralph Sampson. At 7-4, 300 pounds, he dominated the college game and will be a handful even in the NBA. The Canadian would be a popular pick by the Raptors.

20. CLEVELAND CAVALIERS: Tristan da Silva, forward, Colorado

Any team could use a steady, do-it-all type of player and da Silva is just that. The 6-8 forward doesn't have eye-catching athleticism, but he is smart and has the size and strength to endure the rigors of the NBA. He also can guard multiple positions and may be the most NBA-ready player in the draft after playing four years in Boulder.

21. NEW ORLEANS PELICANS: Tyler Smith, forward, G League Ignite

Smith was born in New Orleans, moving to Texas after Hurricane Katrina, and would fit nicely back there now. Smith has a long reach and ability to stretch the defense, shooting 36% from 3-point range last season. The 6-9 forward needs work defensively, but will have time to develop that part of his game.

22. PHOENIX SUNS: Tyler Kolek, guard, Marquette

The Suns have plenty of firepower led by Kevin Durant and Devin Booker but could use a true point guard to help get them organized. The two-time All-American can certainly do that and also provide points when needed, and should be a familiar name to new coach Mike Budenholzer from his time coaching in Milwaukee.

23. MILWAUKEE BUCKS: Yves Missi, center, Baylor

Missi knows his game and sticks to it. A high-motor 6-11 forward, he is a rim runner and shot blocker who didn't even attempt a 3-pointer last season. The Cameron native should transition well to the pick-and-roll game of the NBA and is a thunderous dunker, as he proved during his lone season with the Bears.

24. NEW YORK KNICKS: Kyle Filipowski, center, Duke

New York is loaded with Duke fans and Filipowski could be an instant favorite. The sturdy 6-11 center may not be an elite rim protector or a

consistent 3-point shooter, but he has good footwork and plays hard. The Knicks had a solid run into the second round of the playoffs and Filipowski could be another piece to help push them deeper.

25. NEW YORK KNICKS: Terrence Shannon, guard, Illinois

Shannon can flat-out score and has shown he can do it in big moments. Sexual assault accusations might have made teams leery of taking the dynamic guard in the first round, but the Knicks might be willing to take a chance following a not guilty verdict earlier this month.

26. WASHINGTON WIZARDS: Johnny Furphy, guard, Kansas

The 6-8 Australian has a smooth shooting stroke and gets his shot off quickly. He also has good touch around the rim and good instincts on defense, often leading to steals. Furphy is not much of a shot creator off the dribble and needs to work on his individual defense, so he could need a year or two of development.

27. MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES: DaRon Holmes II, forward, Dayton

The 6-9 forward is good in the pick-and-roll game and a strong finisher at the rim. Holmes has improved his outside shooting, hitting 39% from the 3-point arc after shooting 32% the season before. He can defend multiple positions, but would be undersized as a center in the NBA. He also isn't much of a shot creator, but his pick-and-roll skills may offset that.

28. DENVER NUGGETS: Jaylon Tyson, forward, California

Denver's bid to repeat as NBA champions hit a wall in the second round when its top players were stretched to the limit. Tyson could give them a solid boost off the bench. The 6-6 guard has good size, finishes strong at the rim and is a decent perimeter shooter. He increased his scoring average nearly 10 points to 19.6 last season, so has shown the ability to develop his game.

29. UTAH JAZZ: Bobbi Klintman, forward, Wake Forest/Australia

The back end of the first round is typically filled with potential projects and Klintman is an intriguing one. The 6-9 stretch forward from Sweden has good length, both physically and shooting ability. Klintman moves more like a guard and is a good passer for a big man. He will likely need a few years of development before becoming ready, but is worth the risk late in the first round.

30. BOSTON CELTICS: Bronny James, guard, USC

The champion Celtics already have a loaded roster, so there's room to take a chance on LeBron's son. Bronny James has an incredible feel for the game after learning from his father and has a solid 6-4 frame. He had a so-so freshman season at USC, averaging 4.8 points and 27% shooting from 3-point range, but has the potential to be a solid pro. James also could come with a huge bonus if his father follows through with his intention to play at least one season with his son.

Lawrence insists new \$275M contract won't create any added pressure



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Trevor Lawrence insists his new contract, which makes him one of the highest-paid quarterbacks in NFL history, won't create any added pressure.

Lawrence signed the five-year, \$275 million contract extension Thursday, a week after agreeing to the deal. It includes \$142 million fully

guaranteed and a \$37.5 million signing bonus.

"Being a starting quarterback in this league is a big responsibility," Lawrence said. "The team goes as you go, and I know that. That's a big responsibility, so I'm not going to add any pressure to myself just based on getting this contract. It doesn't really change what I expect of myself and what the team expects of me."

Lawrence would have

signed the deal last week, but it got done hours before a vacation with his wife and in-laws. He and his wife Marissa returned to the stadium Thursday to sign amid little fanfare; coach Doug Pederson and most of his teammates were out of town.

Nonetheless, Lawrence's deal is the latest move in what could provide long-term stability for the small-market franchise.

Pass rusher Josh Allen signed a five-year, \$141 million deal in April that included a \$32 million signing bonus, and the Jaguars and the city are on the verge of getting final approval on a \$1.4 billion stadium renovation.

Those are significant changes for a team that spent the past 15 years dealing with relocation rumors and had only re-signed two first-round picks — quarterback Blake Bortles



AP

Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence (16) throws a pass during the team's NFL football practice, Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Jacksonville, Fla.

and defensive lineman Tyson Alualu — drafted since 2007.

The two sides worked on contract details for months as the quarterback broke ground on a new house in the area.

"We love it here; it's become home," Lawrence said. "Our families love it. Families love visiting here, and we've really settled in. ... The way the organization's going and the direction that we're heading on the football side, that makes it obviously a

no-brainer for us.

"I want to be the quarterback here. I want to bring a championship to Jacksonville. That's my goal, and I really know that we can accomplish that."

Lawrence will get an average of \$55 million annually over the life of the extension, tying him with Cincinnati's Joe Burrow for the most in NFL history. Lawrence is now the sixth QB making more than \$50 million a year, and he's the youngest on the list.

TANIA

From page 16

multi-awarded track star Tania Tan at the Majuro Track and Field Stadium.

Tan ran against just one other runner, Keira Paz from Guam, and clocked in at 41:19:00 to secure the gold and the Micro Games record. The old standing record time of 41:26.48 was set by Guam's Marie Benito in the 1990 Micro Games.

The Pacific Games 5,000m record-holder and now the Micro Games 10,000m record-holder said of her race, "It felt cooler this morning because our race started before the sunrise. It was actually pretty dark at the start so they had to turn on the lights." As she had just ran the night before in the 1,500m which she also won gold in, she said, "I was feeling fine, luckily the race last night was short enough that it didn't impact me too much after."

As for what she thought about breaking the record, "I honestly don't know what the old record was so I didn't expect to break a record. I just went into the race wanting to have fun since it was my last race in Majuro." She added, "I feel honored to have broken it. People keep saying 'wow Tania again!' But honestly, it's not just for me; it's for everyone back home in the CNMI! I'm honored to put our flag in the record books."



Left, NMI's Justin Camacho with the bronze medal in the 110m hurdles, right, silver medalist Simon Tang, and center, gold medalist Guam's Jovan Pineda during the awards ceremony of the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands last Friday.

Leigh Gases

Last Saturday along with Tan's gold, one more silver was won, with two more bronze medals. In the afternoon and evening session events, Cody Shimizu ran and jumped through the 400m hurdles to secure the silver medal. He clocked in at 1:03.88, while gold medalist Guam's Jeofry Limtiaco won with 59.18 seconds, and bronze was Pohnpei's Renaldo Abramah at 1:03.97.

Shimizu, who injured his hamstring after his first day of events, didn't get to compete on his second day. However, he came back stronger last Saturday and pushed himself to get a medal.

The recent Marianas High School graduate said, "I was saving my energy for this one and I'm happy I placed." Even

with his injury, he pushed himself until the end and said, "I just saw everybody winning medals and I just really wanted one—I just had to go and it feels good—I'm happy."

In the discus throw, Lyle Andrew won bronze with a distance of 35.43m. Gold was Nauru's Bouncer Quadina at 43.93m, and silver was also Nauru's Jonathan Detageouwa at 42.11m.

The last medal for athletics was won by Maria Quitugua in the triple jumps with a distance of 7.73m. Gold was Guam's Regine Tugade at 10.89m, and silver was Guam's Taylor-Ann Santos at 10.63m.

Last Friday, NMI track and field stars bagged one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.

Tan got her second gold medal in as many days in the 1,500m with a time of 5:14.45.

Silver went to Guam's Keira Paz at 5:32.71, and third was Palau's Ava Planz at 5:39.40.

For the silver medal, Simon Tang won it in the 110m hurdles with a time of 18.03 seconds. Gold was Guam's Jovan Pineda at 16.30 seconds, while bronze was NMI's Justin Camacho at 19.73 seconds.

The other bronze medal was won by Maria Quitugua in the 100m hurdles with a time of 23.32 seconds. Gold was Palau's Mary Devivo at 15.67 seconds, and silver was Guam's Aleah-Rae Castro at 16.30 seconds.

On the first day of track and field competitions last Thursday, the track stars racked up three gold medals, two bronze, and a new national record, as well as multiple personal bests.

The first gold medal for the athletics team was won by Lyle Andrew in the hammer throw at 33.57m—which also broke the NMI national record. Then Tania Tan won gold in the 5,000m and Maria Quitugua secured gold in the javelin throw. The bronze medals came by way of Lia Rangamar and Daniel Joab, both in the hammer throw.

Over the course of three days, the NMI National Athletics team hauled in five gold medals, two silver medals, and six bronze medals, for a total of 13 medals.

TEAM

From page 16

months to be able to perform at their best and represent our islands well in the 2024 Micronesian. We are very proud of our Team Marianas," NMI chef de mission Valerie Hofschneider said.

In the unofficial final medal standings, Team Marianas' 70 medal led the 68 of Nauru, which had a neck-and-neck battle with the NMI in the top rankings after making a killing in weightlifting, winning 45 gold medals.

Team Marianas, on the other hand, dominated the swimming competition (pool and open water swims, getting 49 golds, 15 silvers, and 14 bronzes). The NMI National Tennis Team earned the second most gold medals for Team Marianas with its seven medals and the Jeff Race-coached squad also got two bronzes. Athletics contributed five golds, two silvers, and six bronzes, while weightlifting chipped in three golds, five silvers, and four bronzes. Basketball added one silver (women's division), while women's fast-pitch won a bronze, and beach volleyball delivered a pair of bronze medals.

As for the NMI National Men's Basketball Team, they wrapped up their stint in the Games with a win over Nauru, 76-35.

The NMI settled for seventh place after their 2-2 finish in the Games.

First place was Guam, second place went to Pohnpei, and third place was RMI.

a total of six gold medals, as they also prevailed in the freestyle and Greco-Roman events over the weekend.

Attao-Greene Jr., Babauta, and coaches Jason Tarkong and Rick Bauer joined the NMI Men's and Women's Basketball Teams and the NMI Women's Fast-Pitch Softball Team in the closing ceremony.

Big thank you

Meanwhile, Team Marianas and the Northern Marianas Sports Association Board thanked all the individuals and organizations that supported the NMI athletes and officials' participation in the Micro Games, and the entire NMI community for rallying behind Team Marianas since Day 1 of the competitions in the Marshall Islands.

Team Marianas is sponsored by: Joeten Daidai Foundation, Mariana Express Lines Pte. Ltd, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, Skechers, Triple J Enterprise, E-Land Group, D&Q, TakeCare Insurance, IT&E, Bank of Guam, Black Construction Corp., Dial-Rent-To-Own, RNV Construction, GPPC/Apex Builders, Matson, Chinese Association of Saipan, Y.K. Corp., LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Jose & Ruri Ayuyu Foundation/McDonald's, P&A Corp., Artman Corp., Zoom Café, and I Love Saipan. (PR)

SILVER

From page 16

while California fly-in Alliyah Fernandez scored 11.

In the game before theinals, host Republic of Marshall Islands secured the bronze medal over Chuuk.

Camacho said of their game, "that was very tough—they blew us out but I mean that's happened before in the 2010 Micronesian Games gold medal game. Their girls have been playing more—they have basic fundamentals, but as for our girls, they're still growing and it's their first time playing together."

As to the girls' perform-

ance and their silver run in the Games, she said, "I can say that as I predicted, we redeemed ourselves—and we're not just Top 3, we're Top 2 in Micronesia, so I want them to keep that level."

She hopes that the NMI women's team retains their Top 2 seeding for the next Micro Games which is in 2026 in Nauru.

"Hopefully, we continue and develop the same girls or girls that are interested," she said.

With how the team could develop more, the many-time national player and now first-time coach said, "We have young high school players. They have two years to continue to practice, learn the basics,

and just build their IQ because they haven't really played because there's no leagues back home. Before we came here we played against boys. But this is a learning experience and we hope to have some of the girls back because we want to beat Guam someday."

With her first time to coach the national team and if she'll

coach the team again for the next Micro Games, she said, "It's a learning experience for me too. I have to really be patient. Teaching is different than playing, but we're at this level and we have to keep playing at this level. So, we'll see where it goes. I'm looking to coach again but it is very difficult."

Team captain Irish Pagarrao, for her part, said, "We did well. With the young girls, I'm impressed. I'm surprised that they can play—they just need more experience off island. We can't just stay in our island because they're not going to know what's going on outside if they don't experience outside competition".

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First place was Guam, second place went to Pohnpei, and third place was RMI.

Icing on the cake

Wrestlers James Attao-Greene Jr. and Ryan Babauta sealed Team Marianas' reign in the 2024 Micro Games after winning the NMI delegation's last two gold medals. The two wrestlers topped their respective beach wrestling competitions and contributed



Thorpe combines on 5-hitter to lead White Sox over Tigers
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Lawrence insists new \$275M contract won't create any added pressure
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Team Marianas exceeds expectations

Team Marianas conquered the 2024 Micronesian Games after finishing with a 70-23-29 gold-silver-bronze medal tally yesterday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Jason Tarkong, James Attao-Greene Jr., Ryan Babauta, and Rick Bauer are all smiles following the team's triumph in the beach wrestling competition of the 2024 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands Monday morning.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Basketball and athletics' Lia Rangamar is one of the two flag bearers for Team Marianas at the closing ceremony of the 2024 Micronesian Games Monday in the Marshall Islands.

This is the first time since 2002 that Team Marianas ranked No.1 in the final medal standings. In 2002, the NMI had 24-26-17 gold-silver-medal tally to rule the 2002 Micronesian Games held in Pohnpei. This year, the 120 total medals that NMI athletes and officials won are the islands' highest,

breaking the 92 (44-23-25) Team Marianas previously recorded in the 2010 Micronesian Games held in Palau.

"We did not expect our team to win these many medals. However, this goes to show how much hard work everyone on Team Marianas put in, in the past several

See TEAM on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Marianas' women's fast-pitch crew in action during their semis game against Pohnpei. Team Marianas won the bronze medal in the event.

2024 MICRONESIAN GAMES Unofficial Final Medal Standings				
COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Northern Marianas	70	23	29	122
Nauru	68	38	8	114
Marshall Islands	47	41	46	134
Palau	18	60	38	116
Pohnpei	17	27	40	84
Guam	14	10	8	32
Kiribati	3	6	10	19
Chuuk	2	12	12	26
Kosrae	0	2	14	16
Yap	0	4	2	6

PROUD SPONSORS OF TEAM MARIANAS



NOTE: The medal tally was based on the data posted at the 2024 Micronesian Games website as of Monday, 9pm, Majuro time.

'Redeem Team' shines with silver finish

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—The NMI National Women's Basketball Team, or dubbed "Redeem Team" by coach Connie Camacho, indeed redeemed themselves with their silver medal finish in the 10th in the 2024 Micronesian Games last Sunday night.

Despite a big blow in their 34-80 loss against Guam in the finals, the NMI women's team is back on the podium after falling short in the 2018 Micronesian Games in Yap.

It was a slow burn for NMI as Guam outscored them, 9-4 in the first few minutes of the



LEIGH GASES

NMI's Azzy Fatialofa goes for the opening jump ball against Guam in their gold medal showdown in the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands last Sunday.



The NMI National Women's Basketball Team poses with their silver medals during the awards ceremony in the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands last Sunday night.

Fatialofa put up 15 points,

See SILVER on Page 15

Guam kept their firepower going throughout the game as NMI continued to fight to get their score on the board moving.

Fatialofa tried her best to use her tall frame to her advantage by pulling in and out of Guam's defense and get some points on the board. Ultimately, Guam left them powerless as their lead grew and grew until the margin totaled 46 points.

Fatialofa put up 15 points,

See SILVER on Page 15

Tania resets 10,000m Micro Game record

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MAJURO, Marshall Islands—Just as track and field competitions started with a



LEIGH GASES

Pacific Games 5,000m record holder and now Micronesian Games 10,000m record holder Tania Tan during her 1,500m run last Friday in the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands.



LEIGH GASES

Cody Shimizu jumps over the last hurdle of his 400m hurdle race and finished with the silver medal last Saturday in the 10th Micronesian Games in Majuro, Marshall Islands.